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# west hartford

### October 2017

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### **QUOTE OF NOTE:**

"I hope that it will give young people, especially, a sense of how this event changed our history forever." - *Richard Chiarappa* 

See story page 35

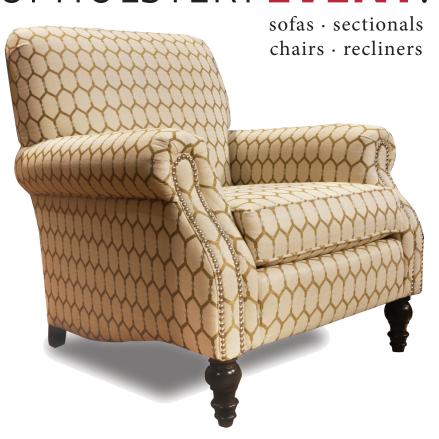
### **ON THE COVER**

Margaret Hann, the executive director of The Bridge Family Center, is celebrating 30 years with the nonprofit organization.

> Photo by Abigail Albair See story page 11

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e'd only been on the job a few days when Foodshare's new President and CEO Jason Jakubowski rode along on a Mobil Foodshare truck to East Berlin.

"All the preconceived notions that I ever had about who's hungry and who's utilizing these services went right out the window when we pulled into that church parking lot. You had 120 people from a suburban middle-class town standing in line. They were old. They were young. They were black. They were white. Men. Women.

"The thing that I noticed over the past couple of weeks is every preconceived notion you have about who our clients are is probably wrong. And I noticed that pulling up in that Foodshare truck. You could look at data and you could look at statistics, but until you see actual people there benefitting from your service, then it really hits home," he said.

Hunger is silent and invisible. "The problem we have here in

Connecticut is Connecticut is the richest state in the country and everybody thinks that because Connecticut is the richest state in the country we don't need help, we don't need support, we don't need programs. We don't have hunger problems because we're the richest state in the country. And that's absolutely untrue," Jakubowski said.

He cited how Gifts of Love

Foodshare is affiliated nationally with Feed America, serving as the Feeding America food bank in Hartford and Tolland counties. In that area, there are 127,000 people unsure of where their next meal is coming from. That includes one out of every six children. Seniors, along with children, form the majority of those in need. Most of the rest are working one or more jobs.

"When I met the staff and saw the passion in the staff, and walked around the warehouse and saw the number of volunteers, and the size of the operation, that's when I fell in love with this place."

- Jason Jakubowski

was putting together backpacks for students in the Avon Public Schools who don't have enough food on the weekends.

"Now that's Avon. If there is hunger there, just imagine how bad it is in some of the poor areas."

He is passionate about helping.

For 32 years, Foodshare has been feeding people. Last year it provided 11.5 million meals.

"Like many organizations, it started in the trunk of somebody's car as an idea and then eventually morphed into this huge enterprise. We're about a \$33 million enterprise now – \$24 million of which is food product. The rest is donations and operating funds," he said.

There is a cost to handling the food – picking it up from places and delivering it to other places.

"There are a lot of great things about Foodshare. ... The two biggest things that I noticed were that it's a very financially stable organization, and not many nonprofits own their own building outright and we do here at Foodshare.

The second thing I noticed is an extremely long and extremely diverse donor list," Jakubowski said.

Foodshare partners with about 300 agencies. Its 4,700 volunteers last year were the equivalent of 22 full-time positions, in addition to the 55 paid employees.

"When I met the staff and saw the passion in the staff, and walked around the warehouse and saw the number of volunteers, and the size of the operation, that's when I fell in love with this place," he said.

He'd had three interviews before his visit. It was during the fourth interview he was offered the job.

"I didn't have to do much thinking," Jakubowski said.

He began July 31, leaving his position as vice president for external relations at Hospital for Special Care in New Britain where he had been for eight years. Before that he spent eight years at Charter Oak State College as the head of corporate and community development.

"I've always been a community based guy," he said. "I'm on a lot of different community based boards. I'm on a lot of nonprofit boards. I just finished a two-year term as chairman of the board of Community Health Resources in Windsor. In December I'm going to be the new chairman of the board of Leadership Greater Hartford. I have a lot of experience in nonprofits, dealing with nonprofits from a number of different aspects."

"My family has always been very involved in the community. My dad was a long-time teacher and principal, retired as the superintendent of schools in New Britain. My mom just retired after 30 years as a social worker at New Britain General Hospital. My bother runs the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Center in New Britain. ... If there's a gene for [community service], we've certainly got it."

While Foodshare will always be a food bank first and foremost, Jakubowski said he sees the organization becoming more of "an anti-hunger agency" in the future.

"We've realized it's not good enough to just feed somebody who's hungry. You've got to feed them and also figure out what the reasons are that they are hungry and try to alleviate these things," he said, calling the anti-hunger movement an anti-poverty movement.

Hunger, homelessness, illiteracy and crime are all interrelated, he said.

It is a complex problem with roots in everything from inflation and wage stagnation to income inequality, politics and race. It involves the whole community, so the solution has to involve



Foodshare's 4,700 volunteers worked the equivalent of 22 full-time positions last year.

the whole community working together.

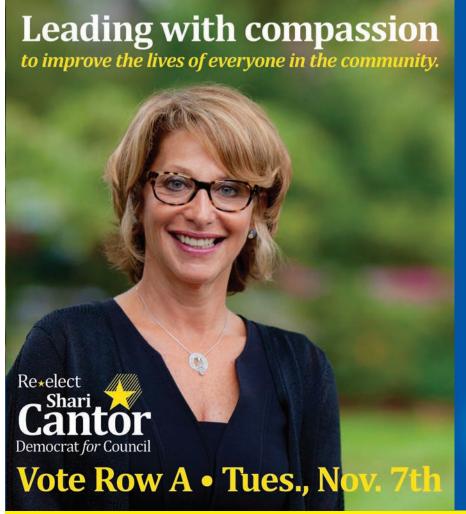
The organization's outreach has a number of programs, including one that helps individuals complete the application forms for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Hunger Action Teams that bring together government and community groups to

meet local needs.

Jakubowski, his wife and five children live in West Hartford.

"West Hartford is one of the largest pieces of our donor base. Mayor [Shari] Cantor is on our board of directors. Rabbi David Small from Emanuel Synagogue is on our board of directors.

"Chris O'Rourke is our chief



## As Mayor, I've been

focused on fiscal responsibility and protecting our quality of life.

Shari and her husband, Michael Cantor, have raised their family in West Hartford. Their four sons - Josh, Sam, Ben and Jacob - each graduated from our West Hartford Public Schools.



Shari is a lifelong West Hartford resident and attended West Hartford public schools. She and her husband Michael are active in the community and are members of Beth El and B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom synagogues in West Hartford.

Over the past thirteen years, Shari has listened to residents and given them a voice. After over a decade of service and direct leadership on financial issues, Shari is as experienced and knowledgeable as she is dedicated and caring. Her goal is to lead with compassion to improve the lives of everyone in our community.

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operating officer, has been for 24 years. She's a West Hartford resident, active in the Fern Park Group.

"One of our top donors and largest benefactors is Cheryl Chase, a prominent West Hartford resident. She donated a truck. She is the lead sponsor on our walk every spring," he said, calling the town "a very generous community," and noting many other connections as well.

In addition to working his way through the 650-page briefing book put together by O'Rourke, Jakubowski has his own ambitious 90-day entry plan that he presented to the board. He's met individually with board members, staff and major donors. He's gone out to pick up food and to deliver it. He spent a morning at House of Bread.

"I am on a multi-month listening tour ... whatever I can to gather as much information I can and then figure out how to best organize the operations," he said.

His plan also includes professional development, and he will take part in Leadership Greater Hartford's Executive Orientation Program.

"I'm a Connecticut guy. I believe in Connecticut. ... My wife and I are never leaving Connecticut. This is where we live. This is where we are raising our family. I am a passionate New York Yankees fan. I'm a passionate New York Jets fan.... I'm passionate about UConn, not just UConn athletics. Both my degrees are from UConn. I met my wife at UConn. We're a big UConn family. Anything blue and white we're in favor of," he said as he showed off his collection of local mascots, a Lou Gehrig bobblehead and the baseball signed by the members of the West Hartford Youth Baseball team he coaches that had just won the State Friendship Tournament championship.

"My favorite thing is my grandmother's clock. I always keep that in my office. When she retired from Fafnir Bearing, an old factory in New Britain, they took a bearing case and they made a clock out of it."

The nameplate reads M. J. Jakubowski.

"That clock is about 50 years old, so I always keep it around to remind me where I came from, because both my grandmother and my grandfather worked at Fafnir. My father and my mother were the first in their families to graduate from college. ... Whenever I need some inspiration, I remember that I'm the great-grandson of immigrants."

As he was settling into his office and deciding where to hang artwork, he was also preparing for Foodshare's annual Turkey and \$30 campaign.

"We were in a planning session two weeks ago and we're already saying we're going to be a couple of thousand turkeys short of where our goal is. ... It's a difficult proposition starting out behind the eight ball. We're looking at between 16,000 and 18,000 turkeys that we'll need to distribute this year at Thanksgiving to our member agencies based on what their need is." WHL

For more information, visit foodshare.org.







# Celebrating Italian Heritage Month

Noah Webster House hosts themed poetry reading

even area poets will celebrate Italian-American Heritage Month by leading an afternoon of poetry at the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society Sunday, October 8 at 2 p.m.

Descendants of Italian immigrants number 18 million, according to Italian Sons and Daughters of America, making them the country's fifth-largest ethnic group. Anchored by Columbus Day, National Italian Heritage Month is meant to recognize and celebrate their contributions – including Italian navigator

and explorer Amerigo Vespucci for whom America is named.

Maria Esposito Frank, a professor of Italian Studies in the Department of English and Modern Languages at the University of Hartford will host the afternoon of poetry. She was educated at the Universita Orientale in Naples, Italy; Moscow State University and Harvard University. Her publications include two books and several articles on subjects ranging from pre-Revolutionary Russia to Dante, and from 16th-century Demonology to 20th-century Italian poets.

She will read poems in italian

that are not her own.

Each of the poets below will be participating. One of their poems follows ther short introduction.

Attendees are encouraged to read their own works during the open mic portion of the afternoon. Sign-up sheets will be available at 1:45 p.m.

The event is free to the public, thanks to the support of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the Greater Hartford Arts Council, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

Light refreshments will be served.

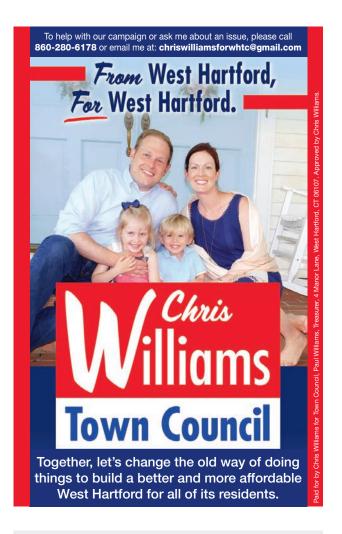


### Maria Sassi

Maria Sassi, a prize-winning poet and playwright, served as West Hartford's first poet laureate. Her book of poems, "Rooted in Stars," is in its second edition, the first is in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. Her work has been published in numerous poetry journals. For more than 10 years, she taught poetry at the University of Hartford's Hartford College for Women. For more than 10 years, Sassi has also welcomed the public to enjoy afternoons of poetry at the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society through







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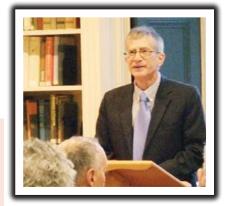
its Poetry Read-In series. Most recently, she has received grants from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the Connecticut Commission for the Arts for her poetry.

### Order of Water and Sun For Bill by Maria Sassi

gives meditations on all the ways of water, ways of infinite flow & hold -Niagaras in my moving camera-eye wake my right hemisphere, illumine the old cycle of glisten on feather & stone, on greening the desert, watering narrows of a drying river...

After rain comes we'll meet, our faces close for hours as camera-gaze follows dawn into sun... You'll study flares, molecular mist, given the unending permanence longed for in one drop or ray, and I'll recall child-song, even

the round of words row-rowing on a far stream, in dream here, under our solar star.



### **Dennis Barone**

Dennis Barone served as the town's second poet laureate. He is the author of seven books of short fiction, including "On the Bus: Selected Stories." Bordighera Press published his study of Italian-American narrative "America/ Trattabili" in 2011. Barone is editor of "New Hungers for Old: One-Hundred Years of Italian-American Poetry." In 2016 the SUNY Press published his study, "Beyond Memory: Italian Protestants in Italy and America." Earlier this year he received the inaugural Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Faculty Scholarship Award from the University of Saint Joseph.

### Flicked by Feeling by Dennis Barone

Something transfixed and transfixing In such jazzed up gibberish as To offer hymns instead of hotels

Something sensed as being so senseless-A demise taken, not given, and therefore An end without a beginning but for those

Stanzas stretched and then delivered Such tokens cannot purchase freedom From the most bemused bewilderment

What holds still can only be a question Unanswered even if often asked -This suburban sublime frightful and dark



### Tony Fusco

Tony Fusco is co-president of the Connecticut Poetry Society. He was the editor of "Caduceus," the anthology of the Yale Medical Group Art Place and past editor of "The Connecticut River Review." His work has appeared in many publications. Fusco is the owner proprietor of  $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\} =\left$ Flying Horse Press, which is currently publishing books of poetry. His latest books are "Java Scripture" (2014), and "Droplines" (2009).

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### Java Scripture by Tony Fusco

In the beginning, God created coffee and earth,

he divided the caffeine from the decaf and filled

the basins called cups; on the second day,

he said let there be milk, and non dairy creamer,

and sugar, and there was lightness and sweetness

on the third day. On the fourth day he called

forth cookies and all manner of dunking food

and the Lord saw that breakfast was good,

but not fast enough, so on the fifth day he invented the drive thru. Then spilling coffee

onto the earth, the Lord shaped the mud

and breathed on it

beginning

(rather he blew on it to cool it off) And there were consumers at the

and the end of the sixth day.On the seventh day, the lord rested.(but could not sleep)



### **David Cappella**

David Cappella, professor emeritus of English and 2017-18 Poet-in-Residence at Central Connecticut State University, has co-authored two widely used poetry textbooks, "Teaching the Art of Poetry: The Moves" and "A Surge of Language: Teaching Poetry Day to Day." His chapbook, "Gobbo: A Solitaire's Opera," won the Bright Hill Press Poetry Chapbook Competition in 2006. He recently published a novel, "Kindling." Currently, Cappella is co-translating "Tracce di un'anima," the poems of Italian poet Germana Santangelo.

### Tugging the Mayflower Home by David Cappella

The boy is still when he glimpses what he thinks is a white dome But they're tugging the Mayflower home

Wide-eyed, anxious, he sits atop a freshly dropped hay bale

His mother points out past the Coffee Pot\* to the ship's topsail

And they're tugging the Mayfleyer.

And they're tugging the Mayflower home

Crowds gather in the field, a few children begin to roam

The boy stands up, tip toed, on the hay block to no avail

Until mother shows him in the sunlight the ship's mainsail

He cannot see beyond the sand dunes where the breakers foam

Though they're tugging the Mayflower home

He's jumps up and down his arms beginning to flail

Because at the tip of the beach he spots the ship's foresail

The boy is all clouds and sea and sky – and now the bowsprit sail

He turns, smiles at his mother – now the mizzen, its mast and rails People laugh, snap Kodaks and

People laugh, snap Kodaks and Brownies, the boy snatches some brome

Because they're tugging the Mayflower home

\*The Duxbury Pier Lighthouse at the entrance to Plymouth Harbor looks like a coffee pot and is called that by locals. Sometimes called "The Bug Light" or "The Bug."



### Tom Nicotera

Tom Nicotera coordinates Bloomfield library's Wintonbury Poetry Series and is a member of the performance poetry trio Not Just Any Tom, Vic and Terri. His poetry book, "What Better Place To Be Than Here?" was published in 2015. He edited "Charter Oak Poets II," a collection of works from Hartford-area writers, and served on the organizing committee for the 2001 Connecticut Poetry Festival at Middlesex Community College. He has published poems in numerous small press publications, and some of them have been performed by the East Haddam Stage Company.



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### Grandma by Tom Nicotera

Short and portly in black dress, always black, she spoke so few words in English, so many in Italian, Calabrese, from a stern mouth, always stern, lips a tight black line across her face and hair a gray oval braided on her head. "Eat, eat," she would say.

"You're too skinny," and she'd smile and pile my plate with deliciously scented meatballs, cold and firm, with a taste irrecoverable in my adult years, a flavor harbored only in memories. Then there was the ice cream, a huge mound in a white bowl, the creamiest vanilla I've ever known.

She would say to my father,
"he's too skinny."
And I was – so thin only suspenders
could hold up my pants.
While she admonished my father,
all around me Blessed Virgin

Mary statues with gold crowns stared at my bony flesh,

and on the cross above the hutch Jesus wept for me and for all of us lost or soon to be lost as a family of cousins, aunts and uncles who gathered at Thanksgiving

and Christmas laughing and eating and gossiping till one Christmas Grandma died and the gatherings died too. I rarely saw my cousins, aunts or uncles again. I grew up and grew fat but almost never heard Italian, and soon by my high school years my father forgot the words he knew when he brought me to Grandma,

to ice cream, to the sad-eyed, blue-robed Mary statues, to the meatballs of forgotten recipes.



### Geri Radacsi

Geri Radacsi is the author of four poetry collections. Her prize-winning chapbook, "Ancient Music," deals with links between ancient art and history. Her full-length poetry collection, "Trapped in Amber," shapes famous relics of the past into a personal history. Her most recent book, "Soul and All That Jazz," published in 2015, touches on

and you click, click. My little girls turn their faces from you, hide on my shoulders. Heavy. Hard. Go on, take my dress. It was pink as your skin, once.

Take my frown.

I won't smile shivering in this piss-drizzle rain.

Snap away, close enough to take baby. I'm carrying another one inside me, but you can't take my feeling of falling.

Migrant Mother, 1936

Come ahead camera lady.

we probably look like ducks

reminds me how the wind

us from badland to badland.

Model T goes clickety

on a shooting gallery wheel—

by Geri Radacsi

From that far off,

closes in, blasts

Oh, you want more? Wait,
I'll curl my fingers to my mouth
like a fist.
You like that? Come closer.
Listen, I've seen enough dust and
wind to know
a wolf lives inside me
teaching these girls to stalk and snap
the necks of birds for us to eat,
to scratch the fields for frozen turnips.
I'm keeping the children moving,
not sitting and dreaming in a mirror,
I'm not raising no stars.

How can a god-damned snapshot make me better off when I just sold my car's tires for food?

There is no leaving.

the passion for jazz she shares with her husband. Currently, she's working on a collection of poems dealing with the burdens and blessings of her new role as her husband's caretaker. For some 30 years she was a featured writer and associate director of marketing and communications at Central Connecticut State University. WHL

Sophie Huget of the Noah Webster House submitted the information for this article.

For more information visit www.noahwebsterhouse.org or call 860-521-5362.







## Sticking up for people for 30 years

**Executive director of The Bridge Family Center** celebrates milestone

by Abigail Albair

Executive Director

match made in heaven was discovered over a cup of coffee 30 years ago, and Margaret Hann has been grateful ever since.

Hann first took a position at The Bridge Family Center in 1987, the same year Wayne Starkey became the organization's fourth executive director.

It had been less than 20 years since its humble beginnings as Educational Resources Inc. in 1969, when founder Dick Jackson began

training volunteers and peer counselors to help alienated youth.

When she first came to The Bridge, it was for the opportunity to be a shelter director of Junction 1019, now known as the West Hartford Youth Shelter

At the time, the native mid-Westerner was living in Vernon and commuting 2½ hours a day to Mystic for 10-hour workdays at one of the Noank Baptist Group Homes.

"I was young and that was fine, but my husband and I decided we wanted to start a family and I knew I couldn't keep that up and have

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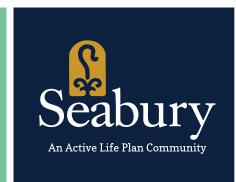
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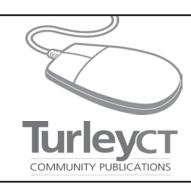








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a baby," Hann said.

When she heard of the opportunity at the Bridge, she applied, and learned that Starkey was also a Vernon resident, so the pair decided to meet at Denny's, a fateful encounter during which they hit it off immediately.

"We both knew right away this was going to work out," she said. "He was one of my mentors and a strong, kind leader. I respected him and how he approached the work we do. He was very collaborative, outgoing and intelligent and all the things that I wanted to be when I grew up, so I thought, 'This is a guy that I could really model my leadership after."

Following a series of interviews, Hann was hired to direct the shelter.

In its early years, The Bridge grew slowly and incrementally.

A year after its founding, it opened a drop-in center for young people in the "Y Annex" on North Main Street and, in 1974, it signed a contract with the town to provide social services to the public schools.

In 1975, Ruth Freymann became executive director and began efforts to open a regional shelter for teen runaways. It opened three years later on Farmington Avenue.

The Bridge became the Youth Service Bureau for the town in 1979.

After Hann came on board in 1987, further growth continued.

New additions to programming, including Looking in Teen Theatre (which later became an affiliate of Capital Region Education Council), the Independent Living Program, Tune-in-to Life Week and others came in the following years.

The Family Resource Center opened at Charter Oak School in 1991, and the Bridge offices and Counseling Center moved to 1022 Farmington Avenue in 1995, the same year the name The Bridge became official.

Hann was promoted to director of residential services, a new title at The Bridge, and, in 1998, the board of directors approached her about becoming the organization's sixth executive director.

"I knew in my career that I always wanted to be an executive director, it if it wasn't going to be at The Bridge it would be someplace else, but to stay in an organization that I absolutely loved, where I loved their mission and everything about it, was a great opportunity," she said.

Rapid growth took place under her leadership as The Bridge began to offer mental health counseling and residential support for the Department of Children and Families.

The decade from 1998 to 2008 was a period of significant growth for the Bridge. The organization opened the Moving On Program, a transitional living apartment program for young adults ages 16-21, the West Hartford Teen Center, a Youth in Transition program to serve homeless youth ages 16-21 not involved in the state system of care, and, after becoming licensed as an outpatient psychiatric clinic for children and adolescents, three Short Term Assessment & Respite (STAR) homes for girls and one for boys. Junction 1019 transitioned to the STAR structure as part of this effort and is now currently a STAR home for girls.

The Family Resource Center expanded its support for young children and caregivers and is currently one of the strongest of its kind in the state of Connecticut.

"Our workforce grew by 48 percent and our budget grew by 70 percent," Hann recalled. "We expanded programs left and right and were selected for major grants from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. We've received more than \$2 million for various programs to date."

Bridge East, a mental health clinic in Rockville, opened in 2011, followed by Bridge West in Avon in 2015.

All three take private insurance, as well as Medicaid and Medicare.

The expansion of mental health support for the region is an area of growth of which Hann said she is most proud.

"[The clinics] have become significant sources of support for children, adults and families in our region and our growth in this vital area will continue," she said.

Over the years, The Bridge has undertaken multiple strategic planning processes and added a development director and human resources professional, as well as upgraded development and accounting software, implemented a new management information system for program evaluation and communications, and created an ongoing training program to ensure staff continue to be prepared to meet increasing needs..

When Hann started at The Bridge, its operating budget was roughly \$1.5 million. Today, its operating budget is \$8 million and the organization serves more than 11,000 children and families per year.

The Bridge must raise roughly \$700,000 a year to "make our mission

come together," Hann said, a large chunk of which comes from the annual Children's Charity Ball held each January.

"It's been a lot of growth. It's been strategic, and we've always been blessed with a very thoughtful board of directors who make sure we're growing in the right direction," she said.

### Wearing her heart on her sleeve

In her youth, Hann wanted to be a veterinarian.

She attended Michigan State in the pre-veterinarian program for two years, taking all math and science credits. Although she did well, veterinary school was very competitive, and she eventually paused to consider her choices.

"I remember one day thinking, 'I don't even like math and science, I just like animals."

After reflection, she decided on a new chosen path – one that she can trace her interest in back to her formative years and days spent with a childhood neighbor and her grandmother.

"My grandmother came from a

very wealthy family. She was adopted and they were horribly neglectful and abusive to her. But she took that experience and turned it around and was a wonderful mother, a wonderful grandmother and an enormous social service advocate," Hann recalled. "I watched her be a voice of people who didn't have a voice. She was a huge mentor for me."

Perhaps guided by that example, Hann made friends with a developmentally delayed child who was often teased and sought to protect her companion from mean-spirited peers.

"It's what I do. I stick up for people," she said. "I made sure that people didn't bully her and invited her to do things with me. I was always drawn to that sort of social service and helping people who needed somebody."

And so, once she rediscovered an interest in social service during her college years, she began volunteering at a group home near Michigan State. She was soon tapped to be the volunteer coordinator for several group homes in the area.

"I fell in love with it and the kids," she said.

"We are there for people in some of their darkest moments. We care for people who don't have a home and we become their parent." -Margaret Hann

Right after college she worked at an institutional alternative summer program and moonlighted at a shelter for children.

It was after her marriage to her husband of 34 years, Bill, that she moved to Connecticut.

She has one daughter, 28-year-old Kate, and she considers The Bridge her second child.

"It's clearly a huge part of my life," she said, noting that she considers her

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job to be 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "There is a print in my bedroom that says 'Begin each day with a grateful heart' and when I wake up and see that I always think of how grateful and blessed I am to be part of this organization."

The work done by The Bridge keeps her motivated every day.

"We are there for people in some of their darkest moments," she said. "We care for people who don't have a home and we become their parent."

The stories from her career are numerous, but in particular a few faces of youth stand out. She remembers one young girl who returned to The Bridge shelter several times in between foster homes.

"She has said to us that The Bridge was the one consistent thing in her life," Hann recalled, adding that the story is not unique. "If they have problems with their boyfriend, lose their job, are back in rehab — we're always there for them. We have one young lady who is now looking at colleges and wants to move on with her life. If it wasn't for The Bridge being her touchstone, she wouldn't

have been able to get through all she got through."

One young man ended up in a Bridge shelter for more than a year as DCF tried to find him a home. In that time he flourished in the environment provided by The Bridge and in the West Hartford Public School system.

"One day he walked in in an Army uniform and now I know he's in law school," Hann said. "That's an enormous success for him and for us to see that happen through the years."

Adolescents who come to The Bridge at age 16 will often have their birthday celebrated for the first time.

"Everyone gets a cake and a gift and doesn't have to do any chores on their birthday," Hann said with a smile in her voice. "

We're also mindful of the sad days: the loss of a parent, the day they were taken out of their home. Believe me, they remember those dates, so we try to be cognizant of that."

One young man asked the staff to call every bar in the area of his hometown to find his mother, and when they did locate her, she wanted nothing to do with him.





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## "It's what I do. I stick up for people."

-Margaret Hann

"The work we do can be so incredibly sad, but we celebrate every success," Hann said. "It's the little things [the kids] often remember."

Although she's always loved working with youth, she gives all the credit to her staff for the good work done on the frontlines with the children and families.

"I'm a good director. I like the aerial view, the big picture," she said.

She is proud of the infrastructure developments she has led The Bridge through, and said she's learned much during her 30 years, particularly the last 19 as executive director.

"I was 43 when I was hired [as executive director] and I'm 61 now," she said. "I learned how much it's all about relationships. My first order of business was to be sure the reputation of The Bridge stayed positive and people knew and loved this organization as much as I do and that they got to know me."

That philosophy has held true as The Bridge expanded into other communities and the organization needed to earn the trust of a new group of people outside of West Hartford.

Hann likes to make people laugh,



particularly in difficult times, but doesn't mince words when it comes to getting the job done.

"I'm very direct, I think kindly, but when I really care about someone he or she will know it," she said. "I wear my heart on my sleeve. I pride myself on being very accessible to my staff at all times. They have really incredibly difficult jobs and they need to have that support. I'm proud to give it to them."

Mary Butler, chair of the board of directors, praised Hann for her ability

to cultivate a team that knows how to "see the need" in the community, and her leadership of that team.

"Margaret has instilled in her team the ability to look beyond the present moment to consider how best to serve the needs of children, adults and families; to understand what barriers they are faced with in their lives, and to analyze how the changes in other community resources may affect people in the coming years," Butler said.

"Her foresight has enabled The

Bridge to create programming that meets ever-changing needs yet stays true to the core mission of the organization. She is a gifted executive director, and her strength, consistency, clarity and dedication are the hallmarks of her leadership style."

For Hann, it always comes back to service.

"Our core belief statement is that children and families are at the center of our work. That's our guiding light and it's my job to make sure we always follow it," she said. **WHL** 



### WOMEN in Business

### **Jill Coscarelli**

Owner +45 Fitness

Jill has been in the fitness business for over 10 years. She holds a National Exercise Instructor Certification as well as other certifications in Balance and Flexibility, Dance Aerobics, and Strength Training. All fitness levels are welcome and modifications can be used for a low impact workout. She has a loyal following because the women who attend +45 Fitness know that they are walking into a comfortable environment. They are supportive of each other and have fun while getting a great workout. Her classes have three components: Aerobic Dancing, Strength Training and Stretching which are all choreographed to music.

Fitness environave fun et three ang and sic.

All classes are held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, M, W, F: 8:45-9:45. Classes are \$8 and there are no joining fees. Free weights, exercise bands and mats are provided.



Phone: (860) 561-0631 Email: jillsc5610631@aol.com Westminster Presbyterian Church M, W, F: 8:45 am



grew up having quilts on my bed," said Anne Dubay, co-presidents of West Hartford Quilters. Her mother made her

one with appliqued butterflies that she wore out.

She made her first quilt in the mid-1980s when taking an adult education class. It was a sampler with a variety of designs that she hand quilted.

Shortly after, a friend introduced her to the quilting group to which she still belongs. She's made more than a hundred quilts. One she recently finished will go to a grandson who is a hockey fan. She's quilted jackets, table runners, wall hangings, totes and handbags.

"I like to sew and I used make a lot of my own clothes. I was a home economics teacher 26 years. I taught in East Hartford, mostly high school," Dubay said.

Currently, there is a Yellow Brick Road quilt on her bed.

She recently completed an involved, intricate sampler







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These are the four baby quilts members made for St. Agnes Home this year. They also made twin-sized quilts.

commemorating an Alaskan cruise 12 years ago.

"It took me until last year to get out the pattern and start making the quilt," she said.

It only took Dubay two days to find Mona Arslanian after she moved to the same Farmington community. Neighbors who greeted Arslanian saw a stack of quilts and passed the word.

"The next day, the doorbell rang and she said, 'I heard you're a quilter," Arslanian recalled, noting that despite any differences, "quilting puts us together."

The two became friends and have volunteered to be co-presidents the past two years.

A self-proclaimed newbie,

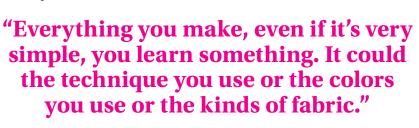
and attending the open sew every Tuesday, no matter the weather.

"For some reason, I had a knack for teaching beginners and I helped everyone," she said, "and the woman who owned the store offered me that position on Tuesdays for the open sew and then she offered me a job part time."

"I still have friends down there from those days," she said.

The friendships formed over quilting are one of the benefits of joining West Hartford Quilters, the two women agreed.

From September to June, the group meets the first Wednesday of the month from 7-9:30 p.m. at West Hartford Health and Rehabilitation Center on Loomis Drive.



### -Anne Dubay

Arslanian she'd always wanted to learn to quilt but the opportunity never came up until a member of her morning workout group offered to teach the women quilting. The owner let them meet one night a week at the gym while they worked on a sampler quilt.

In the 15 years since then, Arslanian has made 100 quilts or more. Like Dubay, she's given most of them away.

Arslanian became a regular customer at a fabric store near where she lived at the time – buying material

The group formed 31 years ago and Dubay joined about five years after that, while living in West Hartford. It's one of 12 chapters of the Greater Hartford Quilt Guild, which has more than 450 members – down from a high of 800, Dubay said.

About 10 years ago, while meeting at Westmoor Park, West
Hartford Quilters maxed out the available space; the wait list to join got so long, a second quilters group – Quilters West –formed in town. It also meets at the same rehab center the third Wednesday of each month.



"We're tying to attract West Hartford people to our group," Dubay said, noting that a few members are from other towns.

Meetings feature a mix of speakers and projects. Sometimes there's a trunk show where a quilter displays a selection of her quilts. Time is also allotted for a business meeting, and show and tell.

"People will bring in things they're working on, or something they've just finished. ... Everyone looks forward to that part of the evening," Dubay said.

"It's a wonderful group of people over many age groups. ... It's a very encouraging spirit in the group."

It's also a generous group of women.

"If at a meeting someone mentions she needs purple fabric, almost everyone will bring in some from their stash and tell her to take whatever she wants," she said.

The chapter issues a challenge every year, offering members the

opportunity to try something different.

"Everything you make, even if it's very simple, you learn something. It could be the technique you use or the colors you use or the kinds of fabric," Dubay said, adding, "You learn so much from the others."

Arslanian agreed, saying, "It's a great hobby and you learn new skills, which is important at any age. ... It's good for the mind. You use a lot of math in quilting and you learn new skills ... with almost every quilt you make."

The group also undertakes community service projects, making quilts for Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, a boys home in Windsor, South Park Inn in Hartford, Saint Francis Care Regional Cancer Center, area shelters, My Sister's Place and St. Agnes Home. Members have also made Quilts of Valor for service members and veterans touched by war, and made a quilt to hang on the wall in the Veterans' OASIS (Operation Academic Support

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for Incoming Service members) space at Tunxis Community College where student veterans can meet, study and socialize.

"Some of the most fun we have is charity stuff because it's nice to give," said Marty Strong who joined West Hartford Quilters about 12 years ago, is a past president and serves as the group's historian.

"Sewing is something I've done since childhood. I didn't want to make clothes anymore," she said of turning to quilting more than 20 years ago.

"I like playing with fabric, plus it's a social thing now," she said of belonging to the group.

For all the quilts she's made, Beverly Scharper does not have one on her bed.

"Most of what I make is given away for community service or to family members," said Scharper, who is one of nine children.

"At this point in my life, I'm not going to make a king-sized quilt because after 25 squares I'm bored. I'd rather make baby quilts and college quilts for family members," she said, adding that she also likes making quilted art pieces.

Like most quilters, she has a stash of fabric for future projects. Hers are organized by color in her sewing room.

Arslanian said people think they don't have time to quilt or that they are too difficult, but that neither is true.

Quilting is not something you do by hand the way your grandmothers did, she said.

Dubay said most people piece the quilt top using a sewing machine and then send it out to be quilted.

"It's really evolved as everything else has evolved," Arslanian said. "It's easy to find something you like in quilting."

There are new styles, fabrics, techniques and fads, Strong said.

"It just exploded. The whole quilting experience went crazy for a while" about 20 years ago, but the revival is now fading.

The group currently has about 20 members.

"There are some things we used to do at our monthly meetings," Dubay said, describing themed fabric swaps and a "block of the month" that members pieced with their choice of fabric, so that after a year, you could sew them all together and have a quilt.

Both of those traditions ended as membership declined.

"I think it would be nice to reinstate the things that dropped by the wayside," she said.

With more people, there would be more workshops and hands-on projects. When the group was large, subgroups often formed to explore a variety of techniques and met informally in women's home, she said.

The guild holds a quilt show every other year. The emphasis is on show.

"We want to see your quilt. We want you to share what you are doing, not matter what level you're at," Scharper said.

No one is judging; it's an opportunity to get some fresh ideas, members said.

"We don't care. We all had that first quilt," Dubai said. "Whatever level you're at, you should be proud of what you do."

Each fall, a chapter hosts an annual meeting for the guild. In addition to a short business meeting, this event features a lecture by a nationally known quilter, designer or author.



Mona Arslanian tends to make modern quilts. She is holding a Turning 20 pattern quilt made using fabrics from her favorite designer, Jennifer Paganelli. Beside her is a stained glass appliqué quilt; on the wall is a Watercolor Quilt.

Favors, vendors, boutiques, raffles and tag sales are frequently part of this event that is open to the public. In the spring is a sharing day at which local chapters and independent members of the guild gather to share ideas, accomplishments and fellowship. Chapters provide short demonstrations, and display the results of their challenge and charity work.

Annually, the guild also holds a lecture and a four-day sewing retreat.

"I gave up gardening for quilt-

ing," Arslanian said.

Dubay gave up basket weaving, macramé and "so many different crafts."

While education is the group's main goal, Dubay said the idea is to have a good time.

"People are welcome," she said.
"You don't have to be a member to
come to our meetings and check
us out." WHL

For more information about West Hartford Quilters, call Beverly Scharper at 860-521-3446.









# Local

**Boutique hotel DELAMAR West Hartford opens** 

by Abigail Albair

Executive Editor

fter five years of development from the ground up, DELAMAR West Hartford — a boutique hotel local officials strategically sought to bring to town to further solidify it as a destination community is open to guests.

The project of the Greenwich Hospitality Group is the third DELAMAR in the state. The first two, located in Greenwich Harbor and Southport, are part of a larger set of properties for the group, including locations in Connecticut, Vermont and Texas.



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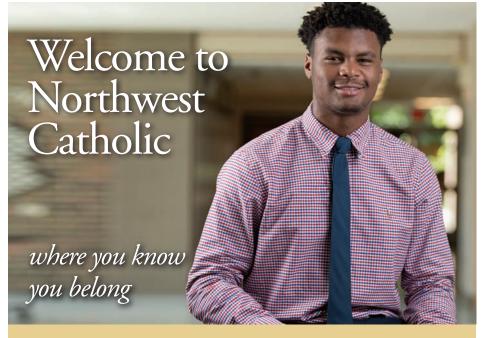
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The West Hartford site on Raymond Road in Blue Back Square was attractive to Greenwich Hospitality Group because of its proximity to West Hartford Center, as well as industry, colleges and universities, art and theater attractions, downtown Hartford and Bradley International Airport, DELAMAR representatives said.

Regional Director of Operations and General Manager Daniel Coggins said during a tour of the hotel just after it officially opened mid-September

that it is "not your typical hotel."

He noted the upscale customer service, fine dining offered at its restaurant, Artisan, the full-service spa, and the overall unique nature of the hotel's design and décor.

Impeccable detailing marks each area of the building and its six floors and 114 guest rooms. Three meeting rooms on the second floor each reflect a different theme and feeling. In one room, the conference table breaks into a billiards table for use when business is done.

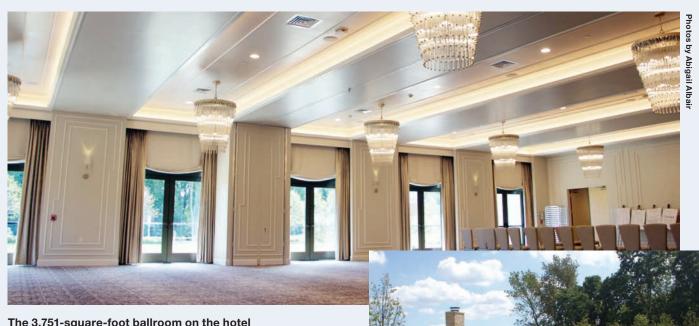
Founder and CEO of the Greenwich Hospitality Group Charles Mallory takes great pride in his projects, particularly with finishing touches, Coggins said. A stencil artist was brought in to decorate accent walls in the guest room bathrooms, for

The lobby of **DELAMAR** West Hartford welcomes quests with its unique design and décor. Guests receive a welcome glass of champagne upon arrival.





All hotel guests receive a continental breakfast each morning in the lobby lounge. The breakfast features homemade granola, yogurt, fruit and pastries fresh from Artisan, the hotel restaurant.



The ballroom opens to an outdoor patio that features a seating area and fire pit.



ground floor is filled with natural light. It will

begin hosting events in November.



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- Dr. Jason Haviar

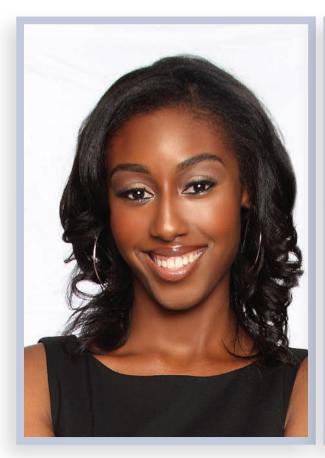
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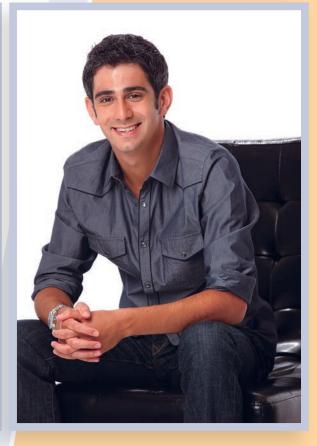
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Jonah Sanchez '15 Business Administration Major

Jonah Sanchez turned his Inroads internship at United Technologies into a position in UTC's Financial Leadership Program. "Jonah was a quick learner and acclimated quickly," said Sandra Kay Mozdzanowski, head of UTC's Benefits Finance Team. "Because of his attention to detail and willingness to learn, he was given high-level projects to work on."

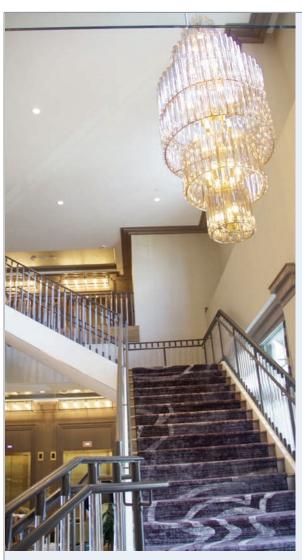
Adam Wurtzel '07 Communication Major

Adam Wurtzel is a promotions producer at Fox 17-TV in Nashville, and has interviewed such celebrities as Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers and Cyndi Lauper as host, writer and producer of "The Pickup," a country music news feature carried on the Heartland Network and more than 100 radio station websites. "I literally owe everything to Eastern, where I learned the inner workings of television — tools I use every day at work."



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Each area of the hotel was specifically designed with oversight by Greenwich **Hospitality Group CEO and Founder Charles Mallory.** 





Left: Intricate detailing is featured throughout the hotel. Wall markings on the third floor give a nod to Connecticut history, including the quill and inkwell as a reference to Mark Twain seen in the foreground.

Middle left: The hotel features 5,000 square feet of space for private events and meetings, including this one of three meeting rooms on the second floor. In this room, the conference table breaks down into a billiards table for use once business

is done.

**DELAMAR West** Hartford displays one-of-a-kind artwork curated by the New



Right: This is a deluxe king room with a terrace. Rooms at the **DELAMAR** West Hartford begin in price in the low \$200 range.

example. Wallpaper with specific textures was chosen for halls and rooms. Step onto the third floor and you will find the walls adorned with images that give a nod to Connecticut history, including Mark Twain's quill and inkwell and tobacco leaves.

**DELAMAR** West Hartford partnered with the New Britain Museum of American Art, which will curate the hotel on a rotating basis. The first installment features "East & West Coast Cool: American Art, 1960s to Now" by American pop artists, including Andy Warhol.

"With this project, we aimed to create a boutique hotel that would be deemed exceptional in any major metro area," Mallory said in a statement. "DELAMAR West Hartford will soon be a regional draw and the top hotel destination in Central Connecticut."

Rooms are complete with Italian linens and floral arrangements by Lane & Lenge, which occupies a storefront in the hotel. Bob DeGemmis' Connecticut Custom Clothing Company is also located on the hotel's ground floor.

The 2,000 square foot spa which will be open to the public, not just hotel guests — will be opening in October and feature Biologique Recherche and Valmont treatments.

Hotel guests receive a continental breakfast each morning, concierge service, housekeeping and turn-down service, a welcome glass of champagne at check-in, Wi-Fi, use of the hotel's fitness facility, valet parking and complimentary transportation in the hotel's courtesy vehicle — a Tesla — within a 5-mile radius.

The hotel's 3,751-square-foot ballroom will begin hosting events in November. The space — which is filled with the natural light that flows throughout the entire building and its variety of rooms opens onto a garden patio. It can



hold up to 450 people.

Artisan Restaurant, Tavern and Garden, which will cater events at the hotel in addition to being open to the public, also boasts intricate design along with it's "garden-to-table" cuisine, some of the produce for which is grown on the grounds of the DELAMAR.

Oversized murals hand-painted by Stockholm Artist Jonas Wickman decorate the space. The tavern area is highlighted by a pewter Parisian bar top from L'etainier Tourangeau of Montbazon, France and the floor

is done in 9,000 hand-laid bricks. That area also features a hand-crafted traditional Swedish farmhouse tile fireplace designed by Gabriel Keramik of Timmernabben, Sweden.

A private dining room in Artisan that seats 16 people features large custom copper string chandeliers from Lumid of Montreal, Canada and a gold-leaf patina barreled ceiling.

The hotel will ultimately employ 120 people, Coggins said.

He has worked for Greenwich Hospitality Group for 10 years and



The terraces off of second floor rooms offer views of Blue Back Square.

relocated to the area to become general manager of the West Hartford site.

He noted that the building was designed to LEED Gold Standards, and that great care went into crafting the project.

"It was pretty amazing," he said. "There are a tremendous amount of people involved in putting together a project like this. It really has the 'wow' factor. This is a great addition to what West

Hartford already has."

He said he believes the hotel will attract a "strong mix" of leisure and corporate visitors with business travelers expected midweek and guests of social events expected on the weekends.

Rooms at DELAMAR West Hartford begin in price in the low \$200 range. A variety of rooms and suites are available.

To learn more visit delamar. com/west-hartford. **WHL** 





Left: An accent wall in the bathrooms was stenciled by an artist to give it extra

Left, middle: Superior rooms are complete with large bathrooms that feature soaker tubs.



background.

The outdoor pergola and seating area is decorated with mason jar pendant lights alongside the garden area complete with natural willow branch hanging lantern globes.





hand-painted by Stockholm Artist Jonas Wickman decorate

the space, one of which can be seen in the dining room in the



a spoon," said chef Frederic Kieffer. He considers it the most important tool in his kitchen. The executive chef at Artisan Restaurant, Tavern and Garden expects those who work under

every day.

"I'm a firm believer of a spoon," he said. "If you have a spoon and test every single thing, that's half the battle. It's not just about whipping something in the pan and putting it on the plate."

He finalized the last dish on the

the Delamar Hotel. Drawing on his classic training in his native France - and experience opening l'escape in Greenwich for Rick Wahlstedt who collaborated on both restaurants - Kieffer was inspired by New England when developing the innovative menu.

Artisan restaurant he opened in Southport seven years ago: Artisan Seafood Chowder made with oysters, clams, shrimp and fennel crackers; and New England Cioppino, which incorporates the catch of the day along with calamari, mussels and chorizo in



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a creamy lobster sauce. Both are among the choices from the sea.

The menu has four sections: garden, mill, sea and land. Each has a selection of four to six items to taste and share, and two to four entrees.

"The focus is on all those taste and share appetizers," he said. "They're designed so you can have three or four items."

Four dishes are vegan, including

a baked tian with layers of spinach, eggplant, beans, tomato and golden romesco sauce. Among the 17 gluten-free choices is ancient grains and duck egg with shiitake mushrooms, fall soffritto and pomegranate.

"Every dish has a purpose and a direction ... Every dish has a story," Kieffer said.

To put a local spin on shrimp and grits, he uses only the royal red shrimp out of Stonington. "There's only one place in the world you can get those shrimp. They're very sweet, super tender and very red, not pink."

The grits are made with organic Carolina golden rice, the first rice grown in America. In the process of cleaning the rice, you always get broken pieces; these are saved and sold as rice grits.

A humble dish he brings from the South of France and Northern

Italy is Rigatoni Con le Sarde. Sardines were the only protein most fisherman could afford. The dish mixes them with homemade pasta, garlic, tomatoes and white wine.

Kieffer hopes guests will see something on the menu that makes them want to return.

"I fell in love with food 30 years ago, I was 15 or 16, my first job, it was part time working as a dishwasher in my hometown in a small

### Chef Frederic Kieffer answered some questions offering more insight on his personality and know-how.

### Q: What's your "secret weapon" ingredient?

A: Ginger or lemon

**Q:** What's your least favorite food? *A:* Chain fast food

Q: What is the one cooking technique that every home chef should know how to do?

A: Making a chicken stock

## Q: If you could take any celebrity chef out to dinner, who would you take and where would you go?

A: Tony Bourdain [from the show "No Reservation"]. I don't know him personally, but he must have a lot of stories. I would probably take him home.

### Q: What is your favorite cookbook?

A: I do like cookbooks a lot. Two of my most favorite are "Mastering Pasta" by Marc Vetri and "Plenty: Vibrant Vegetable Recipes from London's Ottolenghi" by Yotam Ottolenghi. One I like to look at – and I think is one of the funniest cookbooks – is "Au Pied de Cochon: The Album" by Martin Picard. It has a lot of charactures and the recipes are good.

## Q: What herb or spice best describes your personality?

A: Thai basil

Q: If you weren't a chef, what profession would you be? A: A dishwasher

Q: What's your "go to" staple dish?

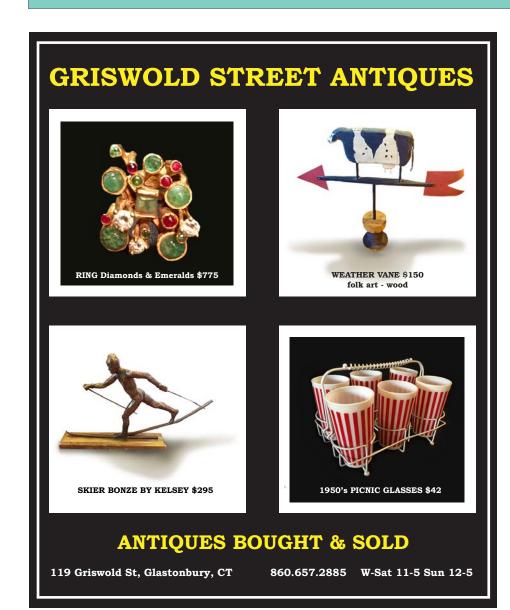
A: One dish that I like is the Nehantic Abbey Crusted Fluke. I've used that technique for quite a few things. You put super thin cheese curls on top of fish. ... You can do it on scallops or salmon. I've used that quite a few times. It's very versatile.

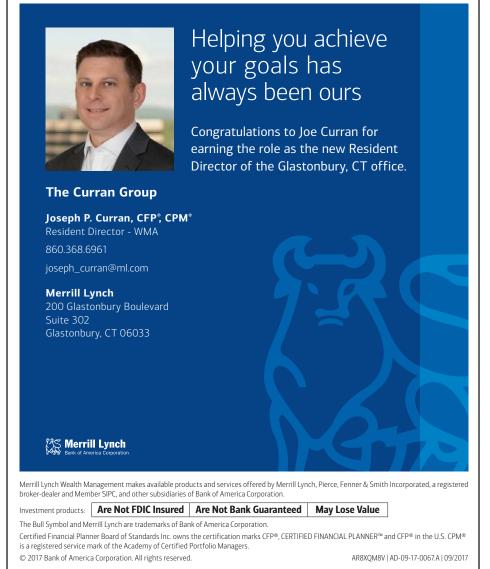
## Q: What do you like to cook when having guests to your home?

A: Vegetables. I have a garden, too.

### Q: It's your last meal on earth. What's on your plate?

A: Probably bone in-rib eye steak, mushroom and red wine sauce.







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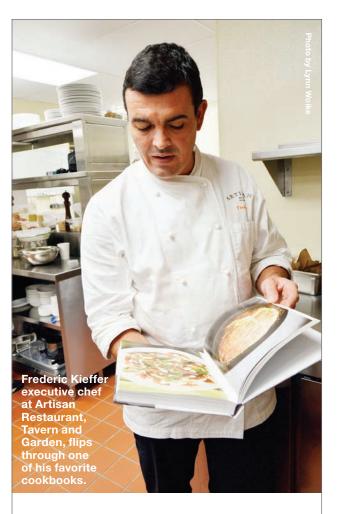
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restaurant on the weekend, That was my first contact with the food industry and when I finished school I went to culinary for six years," he said.

First thing he remembers cooking was a boiled ham for his sister's communion. There was creamed spinach and marterra wine, too.

"It was a big challenge," he said of feeding 25 people.

"I knew then," he said, that food would become his career.

He enjoys handling the ingredients and blending them together.

"When you're younger, you tend to want to do more. ... It's an exact science. It's so easy to complicate something," he said.

By focusing on quality ingredients and holding back - not adding a layer of this or a zest of that - you avoid confusion.

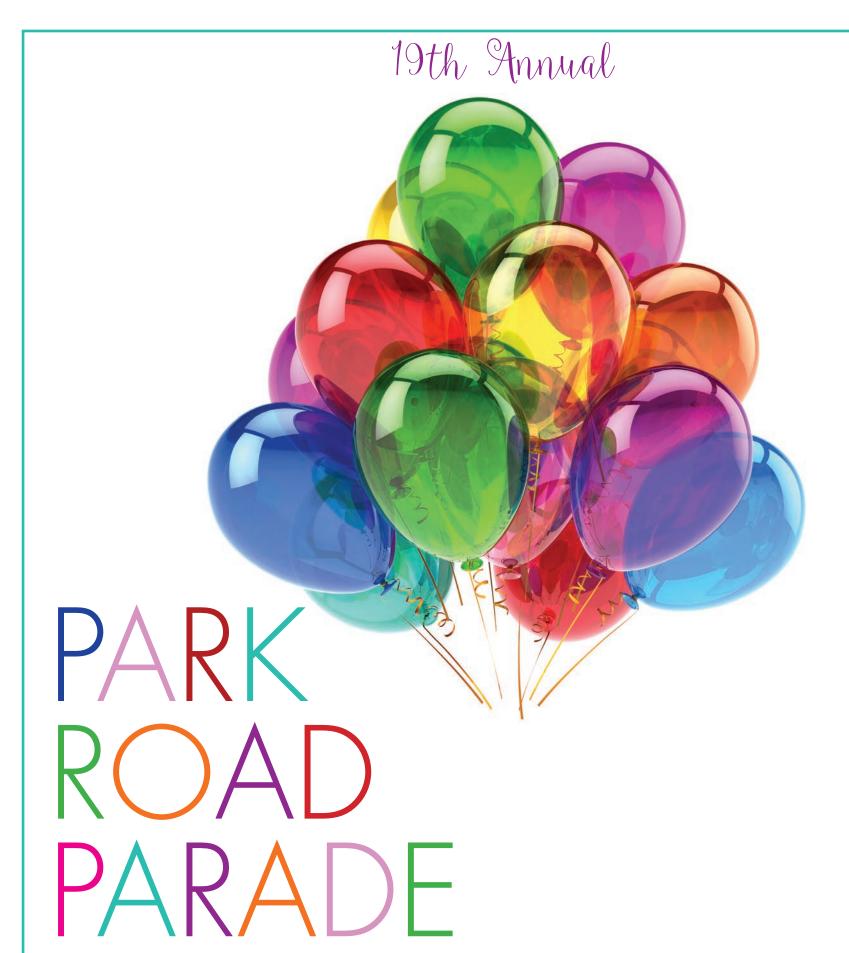
"I think with age you realize that less is more. You want to keep it simple but you want to fulfill the technical part of it."

"It's all about feeling and smelling and tasting, and you have to see the beauty," Kieffer said.

He is passionate about freshness, happy to have a garden on the patio outside the restaurant with vegetables, herbs and spices; and good relationships with Connecticut farmers.

A back-of-the-house staff of 35 will work in the three kitchen areas: prepping downstairs, the a la cart side for diners and room service, and the banquet area for catering events of all sizes.

"It takes a year ... to break in a new kitchen," Kieffer said. WHL



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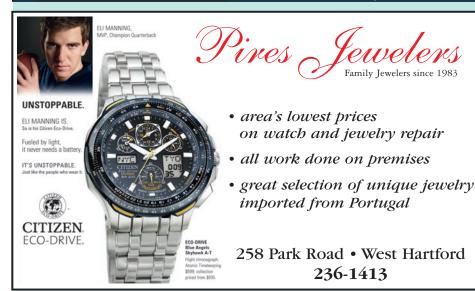
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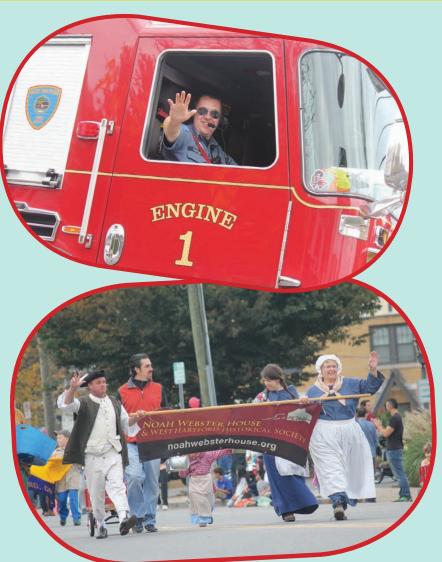


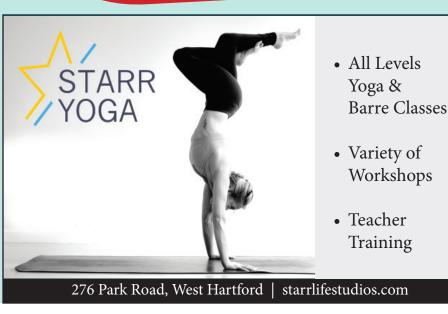




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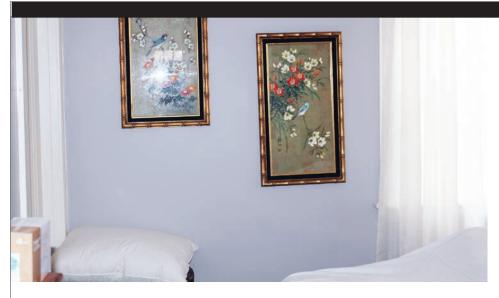
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## Making a difference

### Husband and wife team up in private practice

by Alicia B. Smith

Associate Editor

att Maneggia does not like needles – he passes out during routine blood tests. He became an acupuncturist anyway.

"I try to hammer it home: it's so much different than what you think of as a needle," he said.

Today Matt and his wife Jill Kleiber, are celebrating 10 years of practicing together at Connecticut Family Acupuncture, which here does business under the name West Hartford Acupuncture.

Both first tried acupuncture themselves to find relief from their own health issues.

For Kleiber, it began when she was a senior in college attending Northern Arizona University and suddenly contracted Bell's palsy. Her mother mentioned her daughter's condition to the family doctor who suggested Kleiber be tested for Lyme disease.

Kleiber went to six doctors and was put on a regiment of steroids and antibiotics.

"I was starting to get depressed, this will never go away," she said.

When a friend of a friend suggested acupuncture, Kleiber decided to give the treatment a try.

"Within 24 hours, it started to go away," she said of the paralysis in her face. While the symptoms were not gone completely, they had improved and she could feel some

movement in her face.

"By the end of the week, I was smiling," Kleiber said.

Following graduation she moved to New York City to pursue a career in graphic design. After the horrific events of 9/11 she decided she wanted to make a change and find something satisfying where she could help others. Her research led her to acupuncture and massage, specifically to a school in Texas, the Academy of Oriental Medicine in Austin.

"I bet the whole farm and moved to Texas within a few months," she said.

Kleiber went on to earn a master's in Oriental medicine and is a certified practitioner of Tuina, Chinese massage.

Maneggia was living in Boston after college and not quite sure what direction he wanted to go. He had tried acupuncture while he was in school and again after to get some relief from his scoliosis.

Although acupuncture can often make the condition appear worse before it gets better, after his first treatment, Maneggia said, "That night I slept deeper than I had all my life and my back felt great."

He knew he wanted to go back to school so he "rolled the dice on acupuncture school" - in Texas, with additional training in Chengdu, China.

The couple met while training in Texas and would return to their native Connecticut where they later married. Maneggia grew up in Bolton and Kleiber in Wilton.

Ten years ago they opened their own private practice and have not looked back. Increasingly more people are turning to acupuncture for relief and finding it.

"In the beginning patients would say, 'I told my doctor I was going [for acupuncture] and the doctor would roll their eyes.' Now, we get recommendations from doctors," Maneggia said.

Recent referrals from doctors have been for pain management as a way to avoid prescribing opioid drugs responsible for the current nationwide epidemic.

Connecticut Family Acupuncture, which is the name of the practice, also has a number of patients who are doctors practicing Western medicine.

The couple has seen an increase in the number of people willing to try acupuncture who may not have just a few years ago.

One thing that may prevent a patient from trying acupuncture is the idea of the needles. Maneggia may still be wary of needles, but does not mind the pins used in acupuncture.

While some will simply never get over their fear, Kleiber stressed that acupuncture is comfortable. Her husband said needles used in acupuncture are so thin, eight of them could fit into one hypodermic needle. All the needles used are sterilized and disposed of after each use.

Since starting their practice, the couple has hired three acupuncturists and Maneggia has slowly moved into the role of running the office, which includes opening a second location in Bolton last year.

Kleiber has expanded her work to include helping women with fertility issues. Her interest began when she was in school and did an internship at a fertility clinic. At the time, all the clients became pregnant.

"Research has come out supporting acupuncture for infertility," she said.

Today more acupuncture clinics offer treatments specifically for fertility related issues; however, when Kleiber first began the concept was new. She also assists women with other women's health issues, such as menstruation or menopausal symptoms.

Connecticut Family Acupuncture offers a combination of traditional Chinese medicine, cupping and naturopathic medicine to help with



almost everything including pain, women's health issues, anxiety and depression, digestive disorders, allergies, headaches and fibromyalgia.

The couple credits their success with how they talk about acupuncture and its benefits. Rather than frame it in terms of energy flow, they view it as the body reacting to a foreign element.

"We put the pins in, the body recognizes it as a foreign object, the body responds and creates a natural pain signal all in the blood stream," Maneggia said. "Acupuncture is excellent at opening the blood vessels. That's it in a nutshell."

Acupuncture can also help anxiety.

"It encourages the brain to provide neurotransmitters like endorphins," Maneggia said.

When a patient comes in for their first procedure, Maneggia explained, the appointment will take a bit longer than usual as they fill out a health history and answer a series of questions about what prompted them to try acupuncture.

"We delve into that pretty deeply," Maneggia said.

Additionally during the exam that precedes the procedure, the diagnostics that are done are a bit different than when visiting a doctor.

### "Acupuncture is excellent at opening the blood vessels. That's it in a nutshell."

### -Matt Maneggia

A person's tongue will be examined for color, coating, markings and swelling, all of which can give the practitioner a sense of what is going on internally. A person's pulse will also be checked on both wrists, as the practitioner looks for not only the pulse rate but how deep the pulse is, which helps them know what acupuncture points to use.

"Twelve people could come in with migraines, from the perspective of Chinese medicine," Maneggia said, each could be treated using different accupuncture points.

"For the most part, modern medicine just treats the symptoms not the root of the problem," Maneggia said. "With Chinese medicine it's looking at the entire body and mind as a whole. With acupuncture we can tie it all together."

The couple has been busy recently, not only with raising their family of four boys, but also expanding their practice.

Maneggia said that surveys done

five years ago showed that half of all acupuncturists cease practicing after five years.

"We are lucky to have made it past that and are still growing," Maneggia said. "It feels great to provide jobs for acupuncturists. It's tough to crack into the market."

"I feel being able to grow our company like this shows change for our profession," Kleiber said.

Like patients who are increasingly more willing to try acupuncture, mainstream medicine is taking note of the benefits as well. Kleiber said that many hospitals now have at least one acupuncturist on staff.

"We are trying to find a way to scream, 'Acupuncture should be the first stop for pain relief," Maneggia said.

The procedure has been recognized as being one way to manage pain and may help patients to not use powerful pain medications or to reduce the amount they need.

One of the things the couple

would like to see, on the legislative level, is to have acupuncture covered by insurance. At this time, just less than 50 percent of insurance companies cover the procedure.

"It's a lot cheaper to do a series of acupuncture treatments," Maneggia said.

The couple has found a way to work together, with Maneggia overseeing more of the management of the practice while Kleiber continues to see patients.

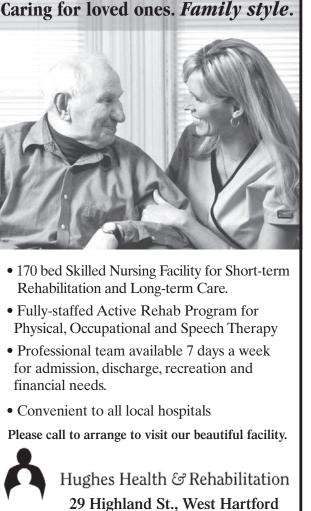
"It's fun to plan, scheme and dream together," Kleiber said of working with her husband. "It's fun to have our careers in our own hands."

She said she also found it helpful when she was pregnant, because her husband was able to administer treatment.

While the practitioners can see improvements in their patients, they never tire of hearing how their work improves the lives of those they assist. It is not uncommon for them to be out and run into a client that shares how much they were helped. WHL

West Hartford, Connecticut Family Acupuncture is located at 173 Oakwood Avenue. For more information call 860-503-3676 or visit online at ctfamilyacupuncture.com.





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The joy of storytelling

WHSO conductor reimagines full-length musical 20 years later as concert version to share the tale of 'Lincoln and Booth'

### by Abigail Albair

Executive Editor

istory will come alive through music when the West Hartford Symphony Orchestra opens its 16th season in October.

A concert musical, titled "Lincoln and Booth" and based on the assassination of the nation's 16th president, will be given in the Roberts Theater at Kingswood Oxford to launch the 2017 season — marking 20 years since its original iteration was performed on the very same stage.

The piece was first composed by the symphony's conductor and founder, Richard Chiarappa, as a full-length musical and adapted this past summer into a 50-minute concert version.

It features 11 vocalists and a 60-piece orchestra. More than 20 songs and instrumental passages from the original show will be performed during the two-hour concert.

Other related pieces will complete the season opener, including Chiarappa's composition "The Gettysburg Address," "Ashokan Farewell" by Jay Ungar — as featured in the Ken Burns PBS documentary "The Civil War," and two compositions by Aaron Copland, "Hoe-down" and "A Lincoln Portrait," which will be narrated by Mark McNally.

"The Gettysburg Address" will be accompanied by a reading of the address by Connecticut radio celebrity Brad Davis.

In a write-up about the opening of the season written on behalf of the WHSO by Rob Kyff, Chiarappa recalled that his goal in writing the "Lincoln and Booth" musical "was to bring alive onstage one of the most inherently dramatic events in the history of the United States, and to do it with authenticity and theatricality."

His father's love of Abraham

ed

Lincoln

n" planted
the seed in
Chiarappa's

Chiarappa's childhood that led to his creation of the piece.

"My father was enamored with Lincoln and highly respectful of Lincoln and what he had done for this country," Chiarappa recalled in an interview with West Hartford LIFE. "So, the latent interest was there on my parent. I was conducting musicals every year at Kingswood and getting more into musical theater in the '80s while I was composing. Around 1990, I had just finished writing a musical with my wife that we had premiered and we were marketing, and I wanted to

a new project. I decided it was time to assassination and the

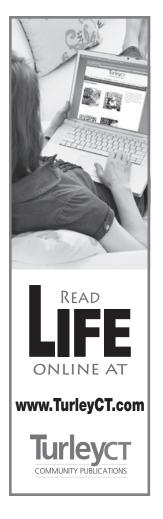
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look into the assassination and the facts leading up to it."

Chiarappa read books, inter-

Chiarappa read books, interviewed experts and visited historical sites. He read letters and trial transcripts and included passages in the lyrics of the musical.

He took the John Wilkes Booth escape route tour that began in the balcony of the Ford's Theatre — the spot where Lincoln was shot April 14, 1865 — and led participants out the back door of the theatre and on a 12-hour journey along Booth's escape route to the barn in Virginia









where he was ultimately caught and shot himself.

As he was a full-time faculty member at Kingswood Oxford at the time — where he is currently part time and serving as the director of the string orchestra program — it took him seven years of research and two full summers writing the script and music to complete the original

When he wrote the original orchestrations, he did a "skeleton" and gave them to a "wonderful arranger," who was his professor at the Hartt School. That man, Frank Hunter, completed the arrangements based on Chiarappa's shell.

Now, in completing the concert version, Chiarappa said he took those orchestrations and "just enhanced them and tried to explode them in a way."

He kept most of the original melodies and condensed the script with the help of Mike Dunne — who will narrate the concert version to provide context for the songs.

"It's been an interesting experience for me," Dunne said, noting that he has worked with Chiarappa for years and narrated many concerts

for the WHSO.

This work was unique, he said, because they were turning a musical into what he called a "symphonic production."

"In the original version, the actors and actresses carried out the plot. Since this time we aren't going to have that kind of structure, all of the dialogue and some of the action that was originally acted out by the actors is now given to the narrator, who needs to, as much as possible, convey what is happening and why and the emotional flavor of it."

He noted the scene during which the staff of the Ford's Theatre is preparing for the 1,000th performance of Laura Keene when they receive the message that President Lincoln will be attending.

"So, the excitement all of a suddent notches up by a lot of decibles and the narrator has to convey all of that both by tone of voice and choice of words as well as explain what's happening," Dunne said.

The work to complete the narrative script was "very complicated," he said, explaining that each change Chiarappa made to orchestration, he would adjust the way he will deliver

the story at that point.

"We had a lot of meetings together," he said.

The musical featured a 10-piece orchestra, so it was quite a task to develop parts for a 60-piece orchestra, Chiarappa said.

All of the work was done in recent months.

"It was a pretty monumental summer for me," Chiarappa said. "The way the pieces were arranged had to be thought of differently, knowing what we had originally done 20 years ago worked well. I wanted to keep the character of the show, such as when Mrs. Lincoln is singing over the body of her dying husband; those difficult moments: the 'Death Prayer' that Booth sang, now I have a whole array of instruments to color that with. I took a lot of the brass out and leaned on the strings and woodwinds."

He added, "Finding the right combination of colors was part of the challenge, but, for me, that's a joy."

Chiarappa has written two other full shows, including "The Silver Whistle," based on the straight play written by Colin McEnroe's father, Robert McEnroe, that appeared on

Broadway in the 1940s.

"I thought there was a charming aspect to it. I lived and learned that some things are ripe for musicals and some things are maybe not ripe for it," Chiarappa said.

He wrote the musical three winters ago and it was performed at Playhouse on Park, but nothing has happened with it since.

"I've sort of shelved it," he said. "But the most important thing that came out of it was, in that show I wrote a love song and I've taken that song from my intent in 'The Silver Whistle' and I've interpolated it into 'Lincoln and Booth.' I love this piece, it's a beautiful waltz."

In an effort to delve deeper into Lincoln's character and his relationship with his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, he added that love song into the concert version of his show.

When it came time to prepare for the performance of the concert version, Chiarappa contacted singers from the original musical to take part in the new interpretation.

According to Kyff's write-up, the 11 singers in "Lincoln and Booth," who will be dressed in 1860s-period costumes for the performance, are all well-known Connecticut vocalists who have previously sung with the symphony or appeared in one of Chiarappa's other musicals. Christopher Stone will sing the role of Lincoln, Steve Mitchell of Booth, Kate Callahan Hardman of Mary Todd Lincoln, Mark McNally of Secretary Stanton and Lola Elliott Hugh of Mary Surratt. The other vocalists and their roles are David Baker and Len Fredericks (Ford brothers), Deanna Swanson (Lucy Hale), John Swanson (General Hartranft), Sara Demos Avery (Mrs. Carter) and Sheri Ziccardi (Nellie Starr).

Elliott, Avery and McNally (narrator of "A Lincoln Portrait") appeared in "Lincoln and Booth" when it was performed in 1997.

Chiarappa hopes audiences are moved by the history when they hear the music.

"I think for many it may give insight and answer some questions for those who may have been just curious about this and wondered," he said. "It's easy to just think, 'Lincoln was shot by a guy,' but here, Booth is going to be standing there

behind a microphone. I think for those people who vaguely know the details, this will fill in a lot of those empty blocks for them in terms of why it happened and about Booth's motives."

Dunne agreed, adding that "the whole issue of the Civil War, slavery, race relations, the economy, are not just a good guys versus bad guys story."

"The Civil War had a lot of people on both sides who honestly believed they were doing the right thing and what this country had been established to accomplish," Dunne said. "Slavery, which was a major cause of the war, is not an evil that one can tolerate, but a lot of people didn't see it that way."

The events leading up to the war were exceptionally complex, Dunne said — noting he did a great deal of research into the matter in preparation for the show — and he hopes to enlighten audiences to that fact.

"Even though we would say the war came out the way it should have, it probably should not have started in the first place," Dunne said. "[Our show] is not just a history lesson. It

tells of history, but it also conveys a lot of what this country stands for."

Dunne also made a personal connection to the past during his research of the occupation of Maryland by federal troops during the war.

"Lincoln flooded the state with federal troops to enforce the martial law he had declared there. One of those Union soldiers was my great grandfather, Conrad Wagner," Dunne said he discovered. "Conrad, as a child, had immigrated to the U.S. with his parents from their native Bavaria. The family settled in Cleveland, and when he turned 18 he enlisted in the Ohio Volunteers. His regiment was sent to Cumberland, Md., on garrison duty, and it was there that he served until his enlistment ended."

As history unfolds, the upcoming performance will highlight for audiences the values of Lincoln and the immense contributions he made to the country.

"I hope that it will give young people, especially, a sense of how this event changed our history forever. It revealed that we had to learn to grapple with the diversity of our nation while continuing our search for the goodness and equality in all people," Chiarappa said.

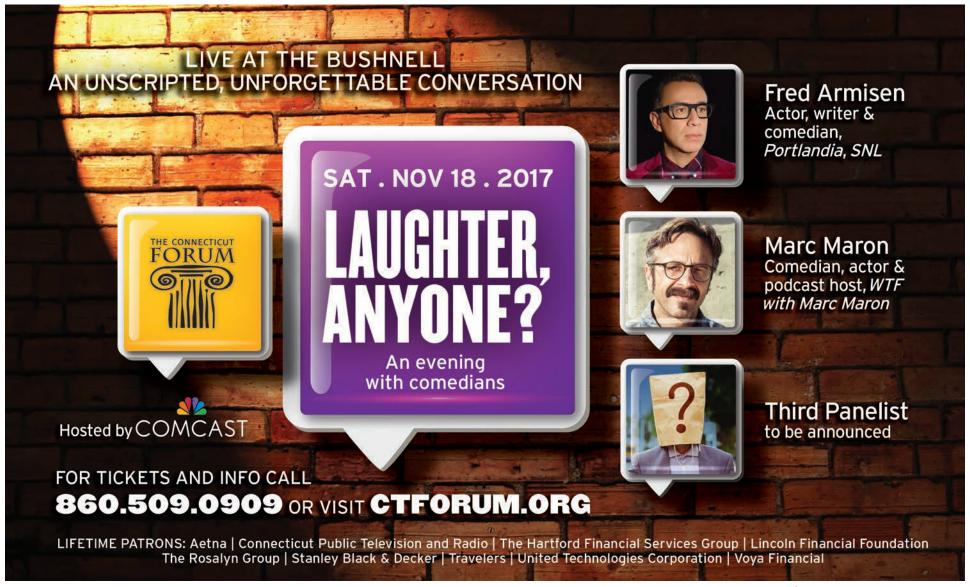
He said his goal in completing the concert version was "just to keep it alive."

"I've reached a point in my life where I said, 'At my age, what's going to happen to the music?' We're only around for so long and I figured when I'm not around anymore, the music won't be around anymore."

He hopes the new version is accessible so other orchestras can pick it up and perform it with their own set of singers and a narrator.

"Any orchestra anywhere in the country could look at and make it part of a family series and it would educate kids," he said. "We all love stories and to hear a story, and that will have a real appeal to people in the audience." WHL

Tickets for the Oct. 22 performance at 3 p.m. are \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students) available at WHSO.org or by calling 860-521-4362.



Following a dream

Abby Fabiaschi changes careers from sales to stories

by Alicia B. Smith Associate Editor

bby Fabiaschi had a career in a hightech industry.

That is, until the day she decided to do something else.

"Writing was always something I wanted to do," the long-time journal writer said.

She has found something she is good at, and more importantly, that she enjoys.

Earlier this year,
Fabiaschi had her first
novel, "I Liked My Life,"
published by St. Martin's
Press. It is a story she
began writing when she
was 24, reflecting on the
loss of her closest friend
who died in a car accident
when Fabiaschi was 15.

Writing the piece, she said, was a way for her to "explore mourning at that tender age."

Following the accident, Fabiaschi began to notice that she could no longer relate to her teenage peers. "I didn't care about homecoming," she said.

Her book actually began with the character Eve, a teenager who is suffering a loss of her own. As Fabiaschi worked on her draft, she viewed it as a means to unburden her loss, never intending for it to be published.

In the meantime, she began work on a second novel – a piece she said was "a terrible book." However, she did submit it for publication and found an agent. That book was never published.

Fabiaschi put her writing aside following the death of her father and focused on her job, which became busier and included extensive travel.

"I came across it one day; it seemed urgent to revisit it," Fabiaschi said of the draft she had written years before. By now she was a married woman with children and had experienced the pain of mourning as an adult.

"I thought this could speak to other people and I should put it out there," she said.

The book focuses on the aftermath of a sudden death and how the characters respond, and ultimately recover.

Writing the book enabled her to explore the loss and grief in her own life through the characters in her book.

"Abby Fabiaschi's irresistible voice drew me in from the start.

'I Liked My Life' is the smart, good-hearted story of a family's loss and healing that pushed me to think as often as it made me smile," Eleanor Brown, author of the "Weird Sisters" wrote in advance of the book's publication.

Kristen Hamel, author of "The Sweetness of Forgetting" and "The Life Intended," called Fabiaschi's novel "an utterly satisfying, beautifully written, absolutely unforgettable debut novel that will make you laugh, cry, and remember to hug those you love."

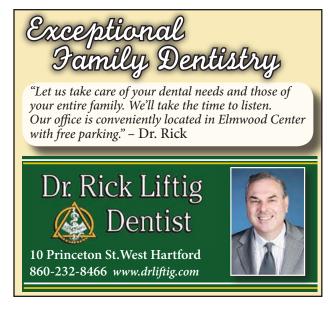
Fabiaschi has found leaving the corporate world to be a much-needed change. She and her family moved from Florida to West Hartford a year ago this past summer. The house allows her office to be on different floor than her husband's. Writing is a process Fabiaschi does in complete quiet – no phone, no radio, just the click, click of the keyboard – and with one glass of wine.

She typically dedicates three hours during the day to her writing while her children are at school, and often spends time in the late evening after her family has gone to bed.

"I do treat it as a job; I do it everyday," she said, adding that she makes an effort to adhere to Stephen King's advice on writing which basically says to write even when you know what you're writing is bad.



Photo by Alicia B. Smith





Fabiaschi tends to focus on characters and begins with the people whose story is she going to tell rather than plotting out the action. She is now working on her second novel, "Anything Helps," which she hopes to have out in late 2018 or early 2019.

"It is the book I want to write," she said.

Throughout the summer the author promoted her current work, traveling to give talks and meeting with book clubs.

She especially enjoyed talking with clubs who have read her work.

Sometimes she meets with the group in person, other times remotely.

"It's nice because it's so intimate, you get to hear people's stories," she said.

Her travels took her to 16 different cities. Not only did she lose her voice while on the road for nine consecutive days, she missed her family.

The one positive thing about the

extensive travel was revisiting many of the places she had once lived, enabling her to connect with friends who came out to support her.

Among those she was able to see again were the parents of her dear friend killed in the car accident and

"I realized

just because you

should do it."

her best friend from elementary school. Born in New

Haven, Fabiaschi lived throughout the country during her childhood. She are good at something and her family does not mean you most recently lived in Florida

before returning

to Connecticut.

-Abby Fabiaschi She said she has no regrets about leaving

the corporate world. Growing up she always thought she'd like to be a writer, but her parents took a practical view.

"They did not romanticize how difficult it was to earn a living as a writer," she said.

What she found working in a corporate environment was that it did not have much heart. She was

able to feed her competitive side and became comfortable as a public speaker, but ultimately she knew she needed a lifestyle change.

"I realized just because you are good at something does not mean you should do it," she said

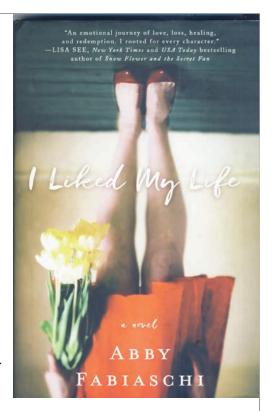
When Fabiaschi left the corporate realm she had three goals for herself: stop taking Ambien to fall asleep, write a book and get involved in charity work.

She stopped taking Ambien, she wrote a book and she serves on the board of Her Future Coalition. The organization works with victims of human trafficking, providing shelter, education and job opportunities to help them have a better future - one in which they can support themselves.

Fabiaschi was inspired to get involved in the organization after reading "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide," by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. The nonfiction piece promotes the empowerment of women and presents the subjugation of women as a moral challenge.

After reading the book, "I felt

In the Great Hall at Grace Church



this call to action," Fabiaschi said. "I am not a believer in Band-aid charities; these women deserve it," she said of the coalition finding them steady, high-wage employment.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from the sale of "I Liked my Life" will go to this cause. WHL



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Dance Classes Begin September 6th

# News roundup

by Abigail Albair, Executive Editor

# Contract officially awarded for interchange project, start date set

The town officially awarded the contract for improvements to the Park Road at Interstate 84 interchange to Paramount Construction mid-September and a start date of Oct. 2 was set.

Town Engineer Duane Martin told the Town Council's Community Planning and Physical Services committee Wednesday, Sept. 20 that more than 60 people attended a public information session Sept. 18, and that the project was "pretty well received."

The project, which involves the relocation of the I-84 off-ramp so it is adjacent to the existing on-ramp as well as other changes meant to improve intersection capacity, efficiency and safety, was designed by the town's engineering division.

The project took more than 5,700 hours of design work, the cost of which was reimbursed by the state.

The current construction estimate is \$6.8 million.

The project will be, in part, federally funded through the surface transportation program, and, in part, state funded through the DOT so just a portion of the expense – an estimated \$975,000 – will come from town capital bonding.

The estimated project end is the summer of 2019.

Once work is underway, Martin said the message to residents will be to avoid the area to the best extent possible. Signage will be posted on I-84 alerting motorists to take alternative routes.

The majority of construction will take place during the day, Monday through Friday, and Martin said there will be few instances when the ramps will close. Park Road will remain open throughout the project.

A webcam to provide still images is now live on the project so drivers can check on the progress or observe congestion in the area throughout the day. A timelapse video is also planned to show the progression of the project.

For updates about the project while work is ongoing, visit westhart-fordct.gov/ParkRd or email parkrd-I84@westhartfordct.gov.

#### Build held for reimagining of Jonathan's Dream, grand opening in October

A site on the Mandell Jewish Community Center Zachs Campus was a flurry of activity in mid-September as Jonathan's Dream was reimagined in real time.

Community members came together to build a place where children of all abilities can play, just as they did more than 20 years ago. The three-day event brought together more than 70 volunteers to install much of the equipment on the 25,000-square-foot playground, which is five times larger than an average playground.

The original Jonathan's Dream Playground was built in 1996 and after years of wear and tear was taken down in 2013. The playground was the first all-inclusive playground built in this country offering children of all abilities fun activities and equipment to enjoy. The construction was an enormous operation that raised \$500,000.

The playground was named for Jonathan Barzach. Born with spinal muscular atrophy, Jonathan lost his battle to the disease in 1995. His family was inspired to action and the resulting playground served thousands of children over the years.

Determined to bring the playground back after it was taken down, a team soon assembled, overseen by a task force from Leadership Greater Hartford. This time around the group set a goal of \$1.2 million.

As volunteers put together a main playscape area – a "tree house" – that "most resembles the original Jonathan's Dream," coordinator of the project Ronit Shoham said Saturday, Sept. 9 that the fundraising goal has nearly been reached. Just \$100,000 shy of the \$1.2 million mark, Shoham said the hope is to move on to the second phase of the project immediately, which is to build an accessible bathroom for the playground. A total of \$150,000 is needed to complete that part of the project.

The playground includes numerous areas and fun features, including a zip line, swings, a labyrinth, a Little Free Library and Kevin's Kourt, a bas-



ketball court designed for people of all abilities, donated by UConn Men's Basketball Coach Kevin Ollie and the Kevin Ollie Charity Classic.

Literacy and mental health awareness are infused throughout the areas of the playground, which is meant to be multigenerational. There will be a buddy bench in memory of West Hartford's Johnny Moran, a young boy who passed away this year of a rare condition and who was the inspiration for the annual Johnny's Jog held near St. Patrick's Day.

A professional team will complete the installation of playground elements and then resilient surfacing will be installed. A grand opening of the playground will be held Oct. 22 at 12:30 p.m.

For more information visit jonathansdreamreimagined.org.

#### Superintendent receives Build No Fences Award

Thomas Moore got up from his seat, received a hug from his wife, who he did not realize was even in attendance as it was a surprise, and walked to the podium where he told the crowded room he was stunned.

"I am honestly stunned, but I am mostly stunned because when I look at the faces and what you do all day, you are saving lives everyday," Moore said to those in attendance.

Moore received the 2017 Build No Fences Award from The Bridge Family Center at its annual Breakfast on the Bridge event held Sept. 12.

"I think I will treasure this at the end of my career," Moore said of the honor. "This is what I want my life to be about."

"Having The Bridge here helps me, my staff, my kids. I will always owe you a debt," he said.

Each year as the center begins to plan for its award breakfast, it reaches out to the community to gather comments on the recipient, whose name is withheld until it is announced at the breakfast.

"This year a clear theme emerged," Amanda Aronson, director of marketing and communications at The Bridge Family Center, said of the comments they received.

"The winner of the 2017 Build No Fences Award is a person with a strong moral compass whose leadership goes above and beyond for our community."

"He gets it," echoed Deborah
Zipkin, Director of the Family
Resource. "He knows that some of our
kids might need help learning
English, might need a warm winter
coat. And for many children, he has
been there to make the road just a little bit smoother."

"If the term 'leader' was personified, Tom would be the poster-child," submitted Dr. Nancy DePalma, former administrator who served with Moore as the assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction and assessment for many years. "He is not a unilateral leader, rather, one who seeks and values the input of all stakeholders."

Moore began his educational career as a social studies teacher at Conard High School, where he began teaching in 1996. His career has had him in roles such as the history and social studies department supervisor for Conard and Sedgwick Middle School, Principal of Conard, and assistant superintendent of schools.

He was named superintendent in 2014.  $\mbox{WHL}$ 

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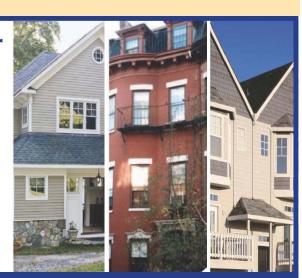
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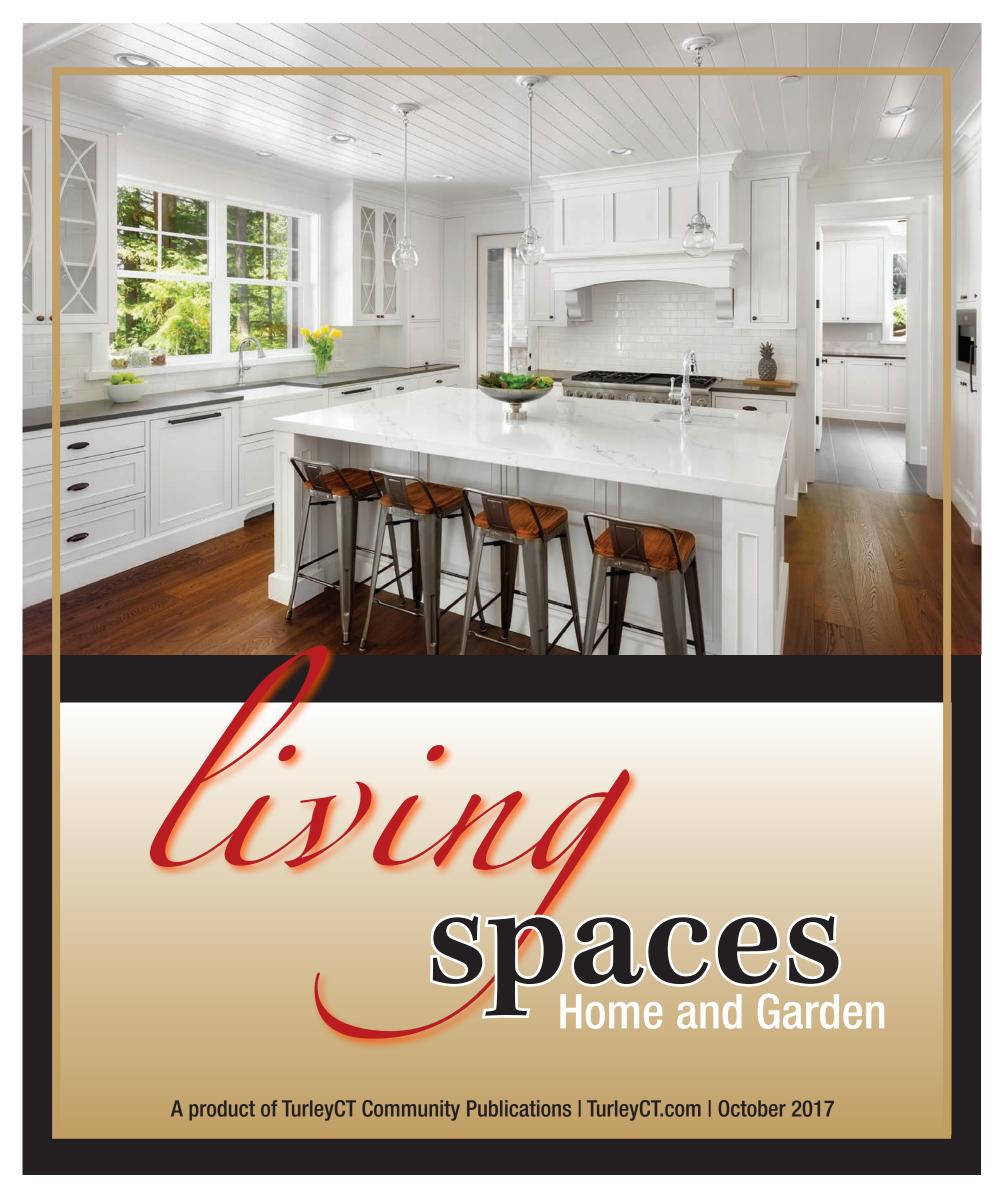


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any of us feel an occasional pang of envy when flipping through a home design magazine or scrolling through Pinterest. But for those with a galley style kitchen, those photos of friends and families happily cooking and socializing around an island while checking on delicacies in a double oven are especially far removed from reality.

"A galley kitchen is a small, compact cooking area that usually has a counter along two long walls. Some homes contain only one counter along one long wall. They are beneficial to a home because the small kitchen allows for more room to be used elsewhere. However, it is somewhat difficult for more than one person to use the galley kitchen," said Adam Gove, who with his brother, Matt, owns Gove Restoration LLC in Wethersfield.

"Sometimes, an entry door to the home is located in a galley kitchen. This provides a challenge when designing these kitchens in that the door opens into the kitchen thus blocking access to certain cabinets. In a condo or townhouse, a galley kitchen does not typically have a door leading to the exterior of the house. The biggest challenge when remodeling a galley kitchen is using the space appropriately."

Matt Gove said the hallmark of a galley kitchen is "a kitchen that utilizes a layout that has more length than width. Cabinets would be located on each wall and face each other so that the work area becomes a narrow space. This layout can be very efficient if done properly and is often referred to as a 'corridor' style kitchen as well. It's a popular option for

apartments and other layouts where space is limited," he noted.

Part of the difficulty in renovating the space comes from the fact that there are certain necessities that a kitchen needs to have.

"Making sure that the kitchen can be used efficiently is by far one of the most challenging parts of a galley kitchen remodel. Space is at a premium, so being creative with the layout and working with the client to see how they use their kitchen is crucial in making a successful galley kitchen," Matt Gove said.

One way to maximize space is to rethink your cabinets.

"Have cabinets up to the ceiling; use up as much height as you can," Frank Christino of Christino Kitchens and Remodeling in Glastonbury recommended. "Frameless cabinets are great for small spaces. Each cabinet interior space is an inch and a half wider than traditional framed cabinets."

Normando Moquete Jr., CEO/ owner of Pinnacle Maintenance LLC in Farmington, said that a couple of quick tweaks will make a difference.

"Add more wall cabinets for storage and a built-in microwave to make more countertop space," he said.

While it's easy to get seduced by the latest accessories, many of them take up too much space for a galley kitchen.

"Cabinet accessories kill a lot of space. Try not to over-accessorize the cabinets. What that means is there are a lot of these pull-out mechanisms like for oils and vinegars or pots and pans lids; there are all kinds of special inserts that make it more convenient but use up space.





The amount of space you'd lose is crucial so you want to make sure you do not over-accessorize," Christino

With enough planning – and if you're willing to give up some cabinet depth – he said it's possible to even fashion a small seating area.

"With galley kitchens, it's hard to get seating, but you can get a tiny little peninsula," Christino said. "We can bring the countertop out and around and it can become a table, as well as a countertop surface and entertaining area."

Adam Gove said that depending on the kitchen's design, seating might be an option on the outside of the kitchen.

"A galley kitchen does not always contain two long walls. It can be made using one long wall, usually the exterior wall, and base cabinets on the opposite side. This allows for the adjacent living space to be open to the kitchen. It also provides for a seating area on the living space side of the countertop," he noted.

He said there are numerous challenges when looking to remodel a galley kitchen, all related to the

"Wasted space is not an option in the cabinet design. We use custom cabinets made to maximize the cabinet area. This means there are not any voids between cabinets created by fillers used to 'stretch' cabinets from one wall to another. It is important to remember light when remodeling these kitchens. Not enough light can make the space feel closed in. Under-cabinet lighting

The use of toe kick heaters is a great way to free up wall space if needed by removing the baseboard heat and installing a heater in the toe kick of a

Matt Gove noted that with a traditional galley kitchen, you can lose efficient work flow when cooking.

"In a true galley kitchen with the

"Light color cabinets along with open shelving and glass doors with lighting in the cabinet can make the kitchen feel larger than it is."

-Adam Gove

combined with 4-inch recessed lights, both on dimmers, allows for a great deal of light without your eye being drawn to the source," he suggested. "Another challenge is making the space feel open. Light color cabinets along with open shelving and glass doors with lighting in the cabinet can make the kitchen feel larger than it is. Storage can be a challenge as well. Utilizing open shelving above windows and hiding appliances behind cabinet panels accomplishes not only storage concerns, but also making the space feel open.

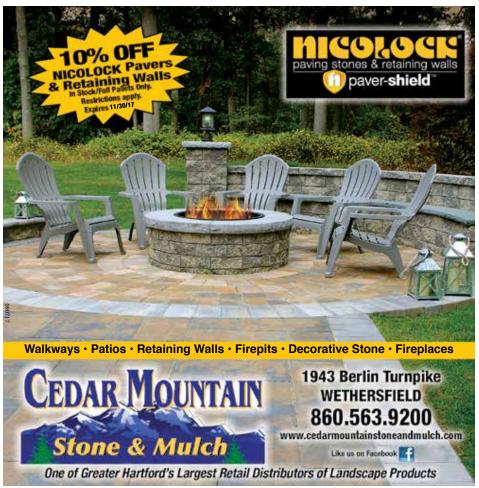
cabinets closely facing each other, creating the 'work triangle' in the kitchen can be tough. By locating the sink in the cabinet that connects one side of the kitchen to the other, making a 'u' shaped layout, it creates one of the points of the triangle and allows for the corner cabinets to have added storage in them in the form of a lazy susan or a half-moon pull-out shelving unit," he said. "Wall ovens and counter depth refrigerators don't waste any space and keep the footprint of the cabinets nice and straight, which ultimately allows for

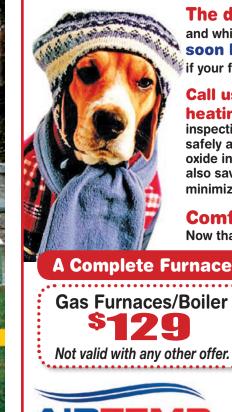
better foot traffic areas. Open shelving and full extension pull-out drawers and shelves can provide efficient ways to store everything from pots and pans to pantry items. Lastly, creating a pass-through to an adjoining room can give the illusion of a much bigger space while helping to open the space up for entertaining purposes. The downside of that option would be the loss of upper cabinetry space, but if it is a larger galley kitchen, it's a great way to add character to the kitchen."

If you're not ready for a full remodel, Matt Gove said there are a number of ways to refresh your gallev kitchen.

"Adding a tile backsplash or replacing an existing one can really update things. Also, adding some aftermarket full-extension slide-out shelves in some of the cabinets can provide much easier access to items that may be hard to get to. Re-facing or painting cabinets a lighter color can help to transform a galley kitchen. In addition, by changing out cabinet hardware to something sleek and simple, it helps to modernize the cabinets," he said. WHL

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# Making room for more

In-law apartments fill need, help everyone

by Alicia B. Smith

Associate Editor



uilder Mark Stidsen of Landsen Construction Corp. in Glastonbury chuckled about the in-law, or accessory apartment, he built in town and how the family's grandfather is still going strong, even though his grandchildren, who were kids when he moved in, are now out of college.

"It's kind of funny," Stidsen said of this particular project and how long the space has been occupied.

"It works out nice for everyone," he added about other similar projects he has done for families.

Stidsen said many families opt to build space for an aging relative as they may live out of state and need more care than they are getting and families would rather have them close by. In other cases, the aging family member may want to downsize, and moving in with family can be an option.

For those who are considering taking in a family member and creating space in their current home for them, Stidsen recommends researching local town ordinances first. Each community may have a different set of rules and guidelines as to what is and is not permissible when it comes





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to accessory apartments.

"You need to pay attention to that," Stidsen said.

In Glastonbury, for instance, accessory apartments that are an addition cannot exceed 800 square feet and must be a part of the house so the finished project does not look like a two-family home.

In some instances, the utilities will have to be separate and a separate entrance will be necessary.

"Other towns have different scenarios. Every one is different," he said.

From there, families can then decide what type of solution might be best. This could be to put an addition onto there home, or if they have a large enough house, the best option might be close off part of the home and create a bedroom, bath and kitchen area from this space.

"It seems like it works out," Stidsen said of clients who he has worked with in the past.

Among the benefits for the family, he said, is if the family's situation changes and the occupant moves,

say, the homeowner can use the space as a rental.

Jim Rose, owner of Rose Inc. in Farmington, has experience putting accessory apartments in and said the phenomena tend to come in waves. At different times through the years the concept is more popular than at other times.

His company has worked with families who have opted to renovate space above a garage as well as put an addition onto a house. Making a decision as to where to put an accessory apartment can come down to how much space is available and the budget for the project.

"I like to get an architect involved," Rose said. "Its easier to have everything drawn up, easier to change the mind than after the fact."

Realtor Nuala Griffin of Berkshire Hathway in Avon has noticed home buyers are looking to have options for their family members to live with them.

"I think more and more things are returning to how they used to be with your parents coming to live with you," she said.

"What they are hoping to find, either to take over the space over the garage and make that into a unit," Griffin said, adding that accessory stairs can be added. "Or what they are doing is giving them the entire lower level, giving them a bedroom, bathroom and living space," she said of basement areas

The area, Griffin, said has plenty to offer homebuyers looking for such a configuration. Many of the houses built in the 1990s are large enough to make room for additional family members.

In some instances, too, families are buying homes with a master suite on the first floor and allowing an older parent to have that space while they move to the second floor with their children.

Griffin said, too, another option for a family is to use space that exists but is not often used and let the elder person have that space as their own with some modest modifications, such as adding a full bath to the first floor. Formal living rooms and dining rooms are such spaces, often not used when most of the activity is confined to the kitchen and family room.

"People are getting to be more practical," Griffin said.

While many families are looking to find ways to accommodate aging parents, in some cases families are looking for an accessory apartment to use for extended family that come to visit for longer stays. Those with family in Germany or India may have relatives who visit for three or four months and they can use the accessory space.

"I think people are searching for solutions," Griffin said, adding that the space can allow families more financial flexibility and, ultimately, be less expensive than paying for adult housing.

There is also the added benefit of the different generations learning from one another.

"I think it's nice to have an opportunity to be around grandchildren. You don't want to be on top of them," Griffin said. **WHL** 

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Where to splurge and how to save





hether vou're building, remodel-

ing or just updating your kitchen, some things are worth splurging on.

Where you splurge and where you save in the kitchen depends on the client, said Eric Sharp, manager of SK Lavery Appliance in Glastonbury.

For instance, clients who love to cook will likely splurge on a range, and those who entertain often or have large families may be more likely to spend more for a dishwasher with a shorter cycle.

"Splurge on what you use the most," Sharp said, adding, "Some people even own two dishwashers."

He has noticed that if someone splurges on one thing - such as a beverage center - they are likely to "splurge on everything to get that awesome-looking kitchen ... so everything matches."

Other customers are willing to mix and match brands to save money.

There's a lot to splurge on, he said, such as microwaves in a drawer under the counter and a refrigerator that take pictures of its contents so that you can check to see if more milk is needed or you're out of ketchup. While refrigerator doors have been dispensing water and ice for years, some now have Keurig K-Cup brewing systems in the doors.

"You can spend some money if you want to," Sharp said.

"The trending splurge is the induction electric cooktop range that performs like gas," he said, noting that customers who see it in the showroom see how it performs like gas but is much easier to clean.







West Hartford, CT





"I think people should splurge on cooking," said Brian Zippin of Contractors Home Appliances, East Granby, noting that people are eating out less and preparing more of their meals at home.

Those who like to cook can consider a more powerful or a larger range. By expanding from the standard 30-inch models, customers can get additional features including more burners, griddles, grills, a convection oven and a proofing feature, he said.

To save money on appliances, he suggested shopping "the calendar holidays" such as Columbus Day, Labor Day, July 4th and Black Friday, which has turned into the entire month of November.

"The whole month of November, the manufacturers are very aggressive," Zippin said.

Another way to save is to take advantage of offers and promotions. For instance, buying four appliances from one manufacturer results in a \$400 rebate and a 10 percent rebate from another, he said. Other times, a manufacturer might offer a free dishwasher when you buy a range.

Many people "like to show off the jewelry – like the faucets and the cabinet hardware and the appliances," said Jim Corthouts, general man-

"Splurge on what you use the most. Some people even own two dishwashers."

-Eric Sharp

ger at Home Design District and Holland Kitchens in West Hartford.

"So, the place to save in doing that would be the cabinetry," he said, noting that cabinets have the largest price tag and the largest fluctuation when it comes to price. "You have the largest control over your budget when choosing cabinets."

There is a 60 percent difference in price between the high-end custom cabinetry and the least expensive line. Semi-custom options offer even more savings, Corthouts said.

He suggested customers save money by delaying the installation of a separate buffet area or a wet bar, and by not choosing a built-in refrigerator. Sinks and countertops are other places you can save some money in the kitchen. If you have hardwood floors you can salvage, that would also



reduce remodeling costs.

"It's important not to cut corners in lighting. You want to have a really good lighting plan," he said, noting that LED lights are coming down in cost.

What will save you the most, Corthouts said, is having "someone who's been around the block" help you design your space.

"They're going to be able to help someone with their budget more than any other thing. A good professional kitchen designer knows how to help people save money. We do it as part of our service," he said.

"The price of the cabinets is where they never should cut corners," said David Szydlo, president of Creative

Kitchen and Bath in Canton.

The custom options, workmanship, installation expertise and the length of the warrantee it comes with all determine the price. While he offers a lifetime warrantee, three years is common with some businesses.

Most people are not looking at long-term value, instead preferring to buy the least expensive cabinets.

"The old adage is true," Szydlo said, "You get what you pay for. ... Go with someone reliable who will give you a fair price."

The one place he suggested for saving money was to go with a Formica laminate kitchen countertop rather than quartz or granite. WHL

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n the heels of a recession that saw home values drop, many would-be investors have shied away from buying investment properties. But real estate has historically remained a sound investment, boasting a long-term appreciation rate that makes it a worthwhile investment for those who can withstand temporary setbacks in housing prices and hold on to their properties over the long haul.

But investors are often nervous as they look for their first properties. Uncertainty about housing prices aside, investing in real estate also is risky, and first-time investors need to be comfortable with such risk in order to make the most of their investments. The following are a few things potential real estate investors should consider as they decide if investing in real estate is right for them.

#### Personal ability

Real estate investors typically have tenants, and those tenants inevitably have needs. Investors who have expe-



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rience as contractors may not find it difficult to renovate a property and make it more attractive to tenants, nor are they likely to be inconvenienced when minor issues on the property need to be addressed. Investors with no such experience will need to hire contractors to do the work for them, cutting into potential profits down the road. In addition, investors who don't have the ability and/or the time to address minor issues like a clogged drain or a drafty window on their own will need to hire a property management firm to tend to such needs. Such firms are effective, but also expensive, further cutting into your profits.

Even those investors with contracting experience may have little or no knowledge of how the leasing process works, forcing them to rely on a real estate firm to write up leases and ensure all leases stay current. This, too, can cut into an investor's profits. Investors who don't bring any relevant expertise to the table can still make a profit from their real estate investments, but those profits likely

won't be as significant when outside companies must be hired to ensure the property is in good shape and all necessary documents are in order and up-to-date.

#### Time

Real estate is often a time-consuming investment. Tenants pay good money to live in attractive rental properties, and those tenants will have a host of needs that must be met. Investors must be sure they have the time to address their tenants' concerns, especially investors with no plans to hire property management firms. Potential investors who already have full plates at work and at home may not be able to devote the time necessary to make the most of their real estate investments, and therefore might be better off finding another way to invest their money.

Time also must be considered when considering profits. Real estate is not the type of investment that turns a profit overnight. Even investors who are looking to invest in an up-and-coming neighborhood must

be prepared to hold onto their properties for at least a few years, if not much longer, to maximize their investments. Though real estate is a sound investment, it is not a get-richquick type of investment, so investors looking to make a quick buck should consider alternatives before buying investment properties.

#### Size

First-time real estate investors might be wise to choose a smaller property for their initial investment. Larger properties can be overwhelming to manage, and investors often rely on property management firms to tend to these properties. Such firms charge more to manage bigger properties, which can eat into investors' finances. Veteran investors can handle such overhead costs, but first-timers might find themselves caught off guard upon realizing the gravity of their financial commitment. A good rule of thumb for first-time investors is to stick to smaller properties, only moving on to larger buildings once they are fully comfortable with all that

comes with investing in real estate.

The cost of a real estate investment goes beyond the purchase price of the home. In addition to the mortgage on the property, investors must pay the taxes and insurance on the property, as well as any costs associated with maintaining and managing the property. Certain tax breaks are available to real estate investors depending on where they live.

For example, in the United States, taxes on the profits when a property is sold may be deferred if those profits are immediately rolled into another property (such a deferment is only available to those investors who arrange this exchange prior to selling the initial property).

Potential investors need to consider all of these costs, and might want to hire a real estate lawyer to help them make the most of their investments and any profits they yield. But even hiring an attorney is an additional cost investors must consider before investing. WHL











# Every Square 'ake the most "ake the most "airs space

by Allie Rivera Staff Writer

n any multi-level home, the space underneath the stairs can often be an afterthought, a strange collection of miscellaneous items that haven't found a home elsewhere in the house. With a bit of design and forethought, however, that space can be utilized in a variety of ways that are both fun and functional.

"Especially for younger homeowners whose interior living space may be more limited, using that space effectively and efficiently can improve everyday living and all the activities that go with it," said Daniel Bailey, owner of Heartwood Designs & West Hartford Radiator Cover.

A woodworker and designer for

over 40 years, Bailey said he first began thinking about creative uses for under-stair space when he and his wife lived in Europe.

"The population density was higher and living spaces generally smaller, but equipped to provide adequate interior storage and accommodate lifestyle needs," he said.

According to Bailey, the space underneath a staircase can be converted to increase livable space, but it is important that in doing so, people stick with the overall aesthetic of the

"Converting unused or vacant space in the home is always a positive if handled in an aesthetically pleasing manner, however it's as easy to





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re-muddle as remodel," he said. "This is where it is important to consult someone with a sense of design. The conversion of the area into livable space needs to coordinate reasonably with the rest of the home."

To turn that area into a livable space, Bailey suggested thinking about the needs of the people of the home. One possibility he suggested is turning it into a homework area for children by adding a small desk or bench.

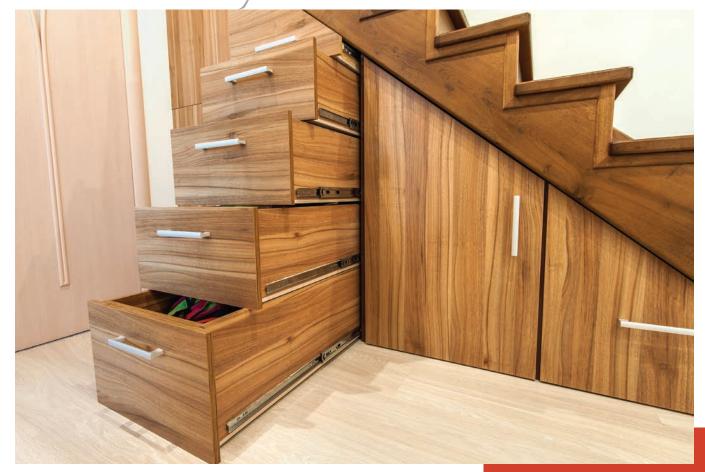
For those looking for a more comfortable space for all ages, Bailey suggested creating a reading nook with a bookshelf.

"Built-ins, such as benches with or without storage, are also an option under the stairs," he said. "The trick is to make these home improvements in a way that is consistent with the interior architecture of the home."

Along with creating more livable space, the under-stair area can also be used to increase storage in unique ways.

"The main thing, I think, would be to use it for something to store," said Roman Szewczak, owner of Expert Kitchens and Bath in New Britain. "Some people do custom drawers that pull out from the side, but it really depends on how your stairs are set up."

Also a professional woodworker, Szewczak said that in his experience he has seen clients build custom storage units to fit in that space, some opting for an additional closet and others looking for visibly pleas-



ing shelving.

For stairs leading down to a basement, Szewczak suggested using the space to create a small wine cellar.

"You can get shelving underneath for it, or waterfall wine racks can be installed," he explained. "They're ones that step down and slide underneath."

Both designers agreed that when thinking about changing the use of

an under-stair space, it is important to consider each situation uniquely.

"It all really comes back to how your stairs are set up," Szewczak said.

To get the most use out of the space, Szewczak and Bailey both suggested contacting an experienced designer who can best determine how to transform the area.

"The visual outcome is as important as the utilitarian," Bailey said. "When it comes to shelving and

"The main thing,
I think, would
be to use it for
something to store."

- Roman Szewczak

closets under the stairs, it is important to design and build them for efficiency and convenience, especially in tight living quarters." **WHL** 



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Abigail Albair, Executive Editor aalbair@turleyct.com Lynn Woike, Editor John Fitts, Assistant Editor Alicia B. Smith, Associate Editor

#### **STAFF WRITERS**

Allie Rivera, Mara Dresner, David Heuschkel, Sloan Brewster

#### **ADVERTISING SALES**

Lisa Oster-Zippin lisa@turleyct.com, 860-264-5652

#### **PAGE DESIGNERS**

Daniel Kornegay, Cynthia Martel, Robert Sirois

#### **GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT**

Barbara Ouellette, Production Manager ads@turleyct.com, 860-264-5523 Maureen LaBier, Production Assistant Daniel Kornegay, Corley Fleming, Cynthia Martel, Kathy Kokoszka, Mary Grimes

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# Writer's block

#### **Words matter**

by Lynn Woike

Editor

o be or not to be ...
politically correct.
Words are powerful. I am a firm believer that the pen is mightier than the sword. I also believe the media strives to be accurate, fair, polite and, believe it or not, sensitive.

At one time, people on the autism scale were called autistic, those missing limb or who are otherwise mobility impaired were called disabled, and those with intellectual disabilities were called retarded. While I don't like using the phrase differently abled, I do agree that a person is not their disease.

I try not to use words that have been stereotyped, or serve to ridicule, mock or scorn: crazy, poor, old, stupid.

Using medical diagnoses allows precision and eliminates ambiguity. Bipolar is different than schizophrenic, and having dementia does not mean you are demented, it means you have a progressive decline in cognitive function because of damage or disease to the brain.

That's not being politically correct, that's being accurate.

If midgets consider the term extremely derogatory when describing people with dwarfs, then it's considerate to use the terms Little People, person with dwarfism or person of short stature. On the other hand, most people with dwarfism accept the term dwarf.

Using the right words is important.

In a similar example, people who could not hear were called deaf. It became politically correct to refer to them as hearing impaired. That population has now stated they are not at all impaired; they are deaf or hard of hearing.

I think political correctness breeds on college campuses, especially liberal, elite campuses, becoming almost a religion. It was born to cater to an increasingly overly sensitive public. Somewhere along the way, the fear of saying, writing or thinking

anything offensive created a new vocabulary. Well-meaning people tried to protect others from emotional distress. In doing so, they orchestrated "correct" beliefs and sentiments, suppressing other opinions – and even the truth – in the process.

For example, Newsweek reported last year, "During his 18 years as president of Lebanon Valley College ... Clyde Lynch led the tiny Pennsylvania liberal arts institution through the tribulations of the Great Depression and World War II, then raised \$550,000 to build a new gymnasium before he died in 1950. In gratitude, college trustees named that new building after him."

Students demanded "that his name be stripped from the Lynch Memorial Hall because the word lynch has 'racial overtones," the article by Nina Burleigh stated.

Catherine Rampell's story in The Washington Post last year reported that two students serving in Bowdoin College's student government faced impeachment proceedings after they attended a tequila-themed birthday party where some guests wore tiny sombreros. Emails from the administration told students of its investigation into a possible "act of ethnic stereotyping."

Animals also triggered political correct behavior on other campuses.

The National Review reported, "A poster at Florida State University warned students that Harambe Halloween costumes were 'cultural appropriation." Harambe was a gorilla in the Cincinnati Zoo, not a culture. The hawk that served as University of Iowa's mascot apparently looked so scary a professor expressed concerns to the athletic department that it may be "traumatizing students and contributing to a culture of violence, depression, and suicide because he never appeared with a smiley facial expression," Katherine Timpf wrote nine months ago in the National Review.

These incidents— and many more — form a web of correct, safe beliefs and opinions. There is a desire to never say or do something can be considered upsetting or offensive – no matter how incidentally and no matter the size of the population to which it refers.

That web is critical of any who disagree and marginalizes them. Their good intentions are tiptoeing around and not addressing the reasons these situations arise in the first place.

For instance, Matthew Shepard wasn't murdered because he was gay and Sakia Gunn wasn't murdered because she was a lesbian. They were murdered because bigoted people considered Matthew and Sakia "others" whose didn't deserve to live.

Political correctness allows these horrible things to be sanitized, diverting our eyes from unpleasant situations.

The slightest provocation offends PC extremists. They surely deem Charlie Chaplin offensive to those who are homeless and think Alec Baldwin offends alcoholics.

When comedians who spotlight the absurd in our world are criticized for their jokes about politicians, celebrities or world events, even if they're off-color jokes, it's a signal our freedom of speech is in danger.

When we say "lost a loved one" instead of "a love one died," we are trying to soften the blow by buffering reality. "White lives matter" and "reverse racism" marginalize an entire population. A consumer experience specialist is still a sales clerk, even if they are a valued team member. A combustion event is still a fire.

Continuing on that path, a vampire would be a living impaired hemoglobin enthusiast and zombies would be life challenged.

The challenge is to know what is common sense, diplomatic and just common decency, and what sets the stage for lies under the guise of good manners.

Political correctness is an American tradition. When it come to politicians, those in the highest offices can say what they will about Mexicans, Muslims, women and Jews, but then must expect journalists and pundits to analyze what was said. But apparently that isn't politically correct. WHL

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BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



# Color Changing...

t's now officially fall and the annual transition of foliage is underway. Of course, being in New England, we're a tourist destination for leaf peepers, compliments of the vibrant show of color.

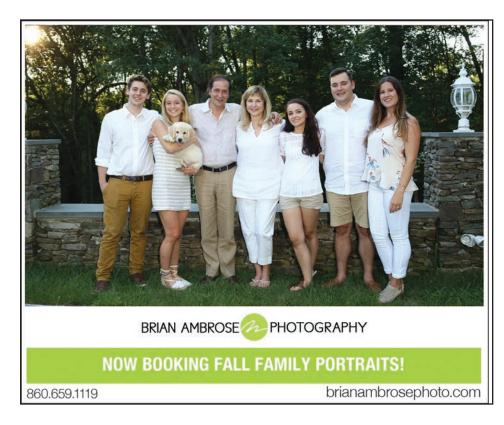
Back in June on the summer solstice, we had a total of 15 hours and 14 minutes of possible daylight; by the time we reach the winter solstice, that number shrinks to 9 hours and 7 minutes – a pretty incredible loss of just over 6 hours! As we progress out of summer and into autumn, shorter days and cooler nights signal trees that winter is coming. But before the landscape becomes barren, we are treated to a gorgeous landscape of reds, golds,

yellows and all shades in-between.

So why or how does the process happen, before the leaves fall from the trees? It basically comes down to a chemical reaction. All of those brilliant colors are always present, they're just masked during the warmer months by chlorophyll, the green pigment. In the fall, the chlorophyll begins to break down,

fading away, as water is cut off from entering the leaf (when temperatures drop) allowing all of the other colors to appear.

If you're planning travel to catch the sights of the season, every week we'll be bringing you foliage reports from across Connecticut and the Northeast on Channel 3! WHL



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Greg Reese 860.818.4861



WEST HARTFORD. Well-maintained 4 bedroom 3.5 bath Cape with attached two car garage. Enjoy the Landscaped backyard from the lovelyporch. \$329,900

Joyce Aparicio 860.913.4231



WEST HARTFORD. One floor living at it's best! 4 bed rms, 3 full baths. eat in kitchen/Gleaming hardwood floors, 2 car attached garage, back porch,. Great location, close to shopping, schools, parks and

Mary Rose Sinatro 860.614.4566



WEST HARTFORD. Great Classic colonial style home located in the ever popular Morley school neighborhood. Renovated kitchen w/granite, SS appliances and gas range. \$309,000

Tracey Hollerbach 860.305.7993



**SOUTHINGTON**. Interior freshly painted this Charming Cape/Ranch with spacious rooms for entertaining, natural gas heat, central air, hardwood floors, level fenced yard, 2 full baths, 3 bedrooms,

Joyce Aparicio 860.913.4231



WEST HARTFORD. Well cared for 4 bedroom ,2 1/2 bath Colonial with all wood floors, remodeled kitchen & half bath, & replacement windows. Quiet street, yet convenient to schools, shops, restaurants, & highway.\$279,000

Chris Scigulinksy 860.906.7726

Sylvie Fillion, Mortgage Representative & Senior Loan Officer For Special Financing Opportuinties On Any Of Our Listings, Please Contact Sylvie at 860-570-2520 • NMLS #110720 & CT #5584

Please stop by our new office to view our West Hartford Property Showcase!

West Hartford Office | 992 Farmington Avenue | West Hartford, CT 06107 | 860.231.2600

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